

Summer 2017

Comparison of Programs SFSP/NSLP/SSO

This is a comparison between the various USDA Summer Meal Programs. The purpose of this comparison chart is to inform and encourage more School Food Authorities (SFAs) to provide meals in the summer and other times when school is not in session. Both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) reduce paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for SFAs to feed children in low-income areas during the summer months or during the extended breaks of a year-round school schedule.

Areas where the provisions in the SSO are the same as the SFSP, rather than NSLP, are highlighted as *Same as SFSP*.

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Eligible Sponsors	SFAs, Local government agencies, Private non-profit organizations, Universities or Colleges, Community & faith-based organizations. SFAs are waived of the requirement to demonstrate financial and administrative capability for program operations.	SFAs	SFAs currently administering the NSLP and/or SBP.
Times of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May-September for traditional school calendar areas • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) • During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar. 	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May-September for traditional school calendar areas. • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies). • During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar.

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Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Meal Service Locations	Schools, camps, churches, community centers, housing projects, libraries, migrant centers, parks, playgrounds, pools, and other public sites where children gather.	Schools, Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs).	<i>Same as SFSP</i>
Meal Cost for Children	All meals are free. (Although camps are only reimbursed for children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals, camp sponsors may, and usually do, provide meals free of charge to all children).	Meal cost (free/reduced-price/paid) for children is based on their income eligibility.	<i>Same as SFSP</i>
Establishing Site Eligibility	<p>Open sites: In the attendance area of a school or in a geographic area defined by census data where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, and open to community.</p> <p>Enrolled sites: 50 percent or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, determined by approved application, or operate in an eligible area.</p>	<p>Schools: Public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of State's education system.</p> <p>RCCIs: Public and licensed, non-profit, private.</p>	<i>Same as SFSP</i>

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<p>Establishing Site Eligibility, Cont.</p>	<p>Migrant sites: Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers.</p> <p>Camps: Offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children.</p> <p>*As applicable, alternative forms of data may be used to establish site eligibility, including special provision data (including Community Eligibility) under NSLP/SBP, and Census data.</p>		
<p>Type of Meals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Snack (AM or PM) • Supper <p>Lunch & supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site, except for camp and migrant sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Afterschool Snacks 	<p><i>Same as SFSP</i></p>
<p>Maximum Number of Meals</p>	<p>2 meals for most sites.</p> <p>3 meals for migrant sites and camps.</p>	<p>Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack</p>	<p><i>Same as SFSP</i></p>

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Meal Service Time Requirements	No time limits on duration of meal service or amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next.	Breakfast must be served in the morning hours; lunch must be offered between 10 am and 2 pm.	Breakfast must be served in the morning hours; lunch must be offered between 10 am and 2 pm; snacks must be evenly and adequately spaced between other meal service times; supper meal times must be established for each site.																												
Claiming of Second Meal	Up to 2 percent of the entire claim in any given month.	N/A	May claim second breakfast but cannot claim lunches and snacks.																												
Commodities	1.5 cents per meal for sponsors and self-prep sites May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute.	23.75 cents per meal (2014-15 school year) May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute.	Same as NSLP																												
Reimbursement Rates	<p>Calendar Year 2017</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of meal</th> <th>Self-prep or rural</th> <th>All Other Types of Sites</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Break-fast</td> <td>2.1875</td> <td>2.1450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lunch or Supper</td> <td>3.8325</td> <td>3.7700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snack</td> <td>0.9075</td> <td>0.8875</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*For the contiguous States only; rates for Alaska & Hawaii are higher.</p>	Type of meal	Self-prep or rural	All Other Types of Sites	Break-fast	2.1875	2.1450	Lunch or Supper	3.8325	3.7700	Snack	0.9075	0.8875	<p>School Year 2016-17***</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of meal</th> <th>Breakfast*</th> <th>Lunch **</th> <th>Snack</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Paid</td> <td>.29</td> <td>.36</td> <td>.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R/P</td> <td>1.74</td> <td>2.82</td> <td>.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Free</td> <td>2.04</td> <td>3.22</td> <td>.86</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Includes severe need payment. **Includes additional 6 cents performance-based reimbursement. ***For the contiguous States only; rates for Alaska & Hawaii are higher.</p>	Type of meal	Breakfast*	Lunch **	Snack	Paid	.29	.36	.07	R/P	1.74	2.82	.43	Free	2.04	3.22	.86	<p>All eligible meals provided under SSO reimbursed at NSLP/SBP applicable free rates for the SY beginning July 1 of the prior calendar year. (SY 16-17). When the new rates for the upcoming SY (SY 17-18) become effective on July 1, the new rates apply for meals served in SSO from July 1 to the end of the summer program. Since the NSLP rates change on July 1, the June and July claims cannot be combined.</p>
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Reimbursement Method	SFSP sponsors receive the maximum reimbursement (meals times rates) without regard to their actual or budgeted costs. Sponsors may use reimbursements to pay for any allowable program cost. Camps are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children.	Total meals by type times the free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal. Extra \$.02 per lunch if 60 percent or more of lunches in second preceding year were free or reduced-price. Additional payments for free or reduced-price breakfasts in severe need schools.	If area eligible, all meals reimbursed at NSLP/SBP free rate. Extra reimbursements available under NSLP/SBP provided under SSO, as applicable. If applications required (camps or enrolled in non-eligible area), free and reduced-price meals reimbursed at free NSLP/SBP rate; no reimbursement for paid meals at these sites.
Required Monitoring by SFA/Sponsors	Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the summer program. Site visits the first week of operation (waived for sites that operated successfully the previous summer). Site review during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed.	On-site review of lunch counting and claiming system for each school by Feb. 1st each year.	Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern and food safety compliance at least once during each site's operation.
Required Monitoring by State Agency	Review every 3 years; more frequently based on program size and prior problems identified by the State agency.	Review every 3 years or more if there is an ongoing audit.	SA must review at least one SSO site in operation at all SFAs scheduled for an administrative review. The review may be conducted in the summer prior to or following the scheduled administrative review.

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Meal Pattern	Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards, though School Food Authorities may substitute NSLP/SBP meal patterns.	Must meet requirement for NSLP in 7 CFR 210.10; or SBP in 7 CFR 220.8.	Same as NSLP/SBP* *Additional flexibilities granted in specific circumstances: Refer to policy memo SP-39-2014, <i>“Questions and Answers for the National School Lunch Program’s Seamless Summer Option.”</i>
Offer vs. Serve Option	Optional for all SFSP sites.	Optional for at all grade levels for breakfast and required at high school level only for lunch.	Optional but if elect to use, must follow offer vs. serve option requirements of NSLP and SBP.
Eligible Participants	Persons 18 years or younger and persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the State.	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the SA; including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in Residential Child Care Institutions.	Same as NSLP/SBP
Public Notification	Sponsor must send public media notice regarding program and eligibility.	School Food Authority must send public media notice regarding program and letter or notice with an application to parents for all children in attendance at the school at the beginning of each school year.	Public media notice may be done but is not required SFA must state in application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will promote the availability of meals to children in the community.