

WASHINGTON STATE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

2022



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

About Child Nutrition Services (CNS)

Child Nutrition Services Mission Statement

Assist school districts and other institutions in providing quality nutrition programs that promote life-long, healthy living while providing nutritious meals each day that prepare children for learning.

Goals

To provide leadership for child nutrition meal programs through administration, assistance, and to incorporate nutrition education in all phases of services. To promote strong agency cooperation, interaction, and communication.

For additional data, information, or copies of this booklet please visit

<https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/child-nutrition>.

Disclaimer: Statistics represent a snapshot in time, data is subject to change.

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CNS Programs Overview

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) administers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), Special Milk Program (SMP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Total Meals and Snacks Served

September 2020 – August 2021

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, and CACFP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Total Meals Served

0 - 100

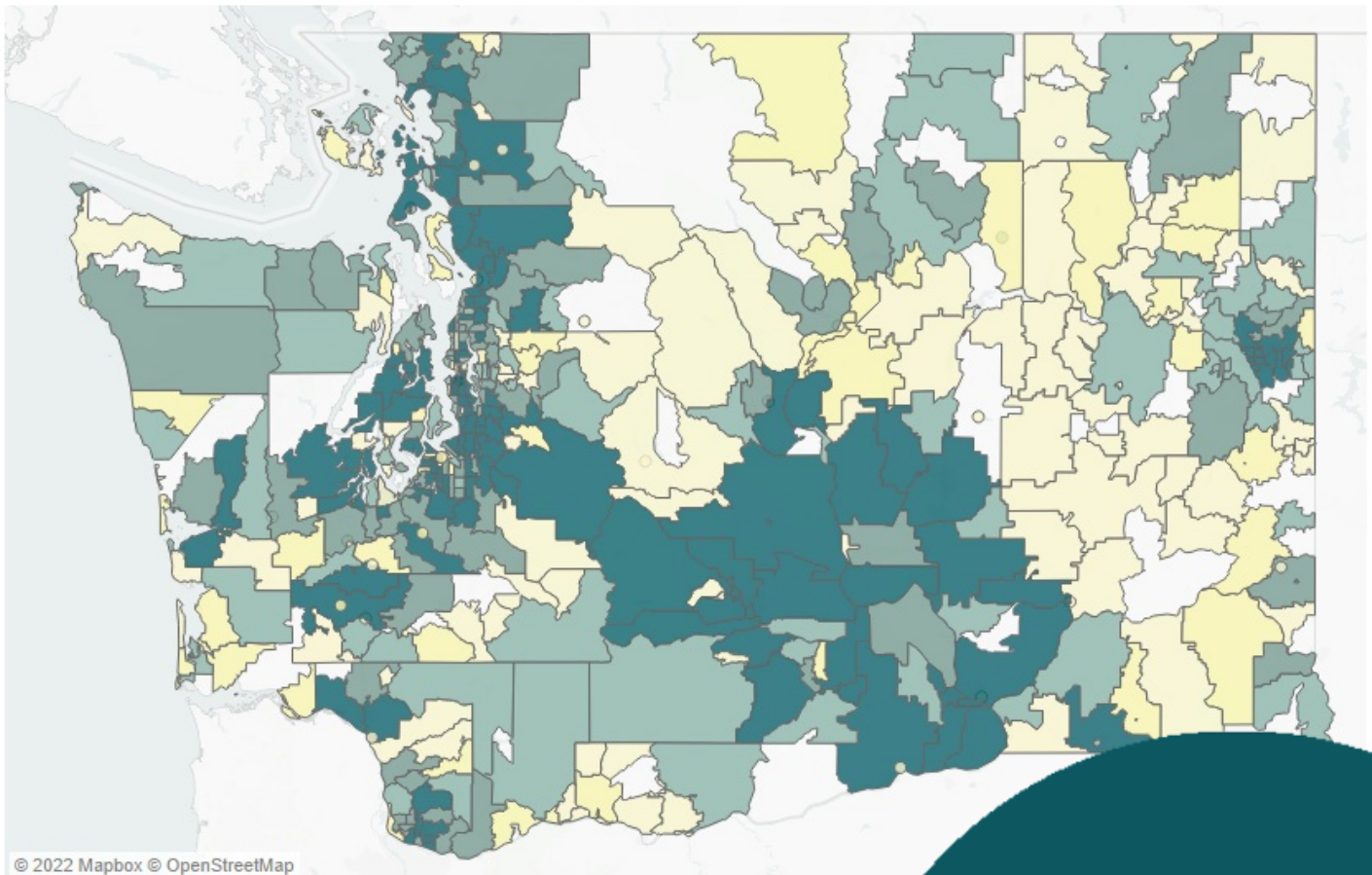
101 - 50,000

50,001 - 100,000

100,001 - 250,000

250,001 - 500,000

More than 500,001



In 2020 - 2021

122 Million Meals

Were distributed by

4,870 Sites

Across Washington State

CNS Programs Overview -Trends in Meals Served

Organizations that sponsor Child Nutrition Programs are reimbursed based on the number of meals they serve to participants in their communities. Reimbursement per meal rates are set annually by USDA. Reimbursement rates are posted on the [CNS Claims, Fiscal Information and Resources webpage](#).

The COVID 19 Pandemic has had a significant impact to Child Nutrition Programs. USDA waivers issued in response to the pandemic has impacted the type of programs operated, meals distribution methods and children’s access to meals. The graph below provides an overview of meals served through all Child Nutrition Programs. Details and individual program data is provided in the following sections.

Total Meals and Snacks Served

September - August

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, and CACFP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

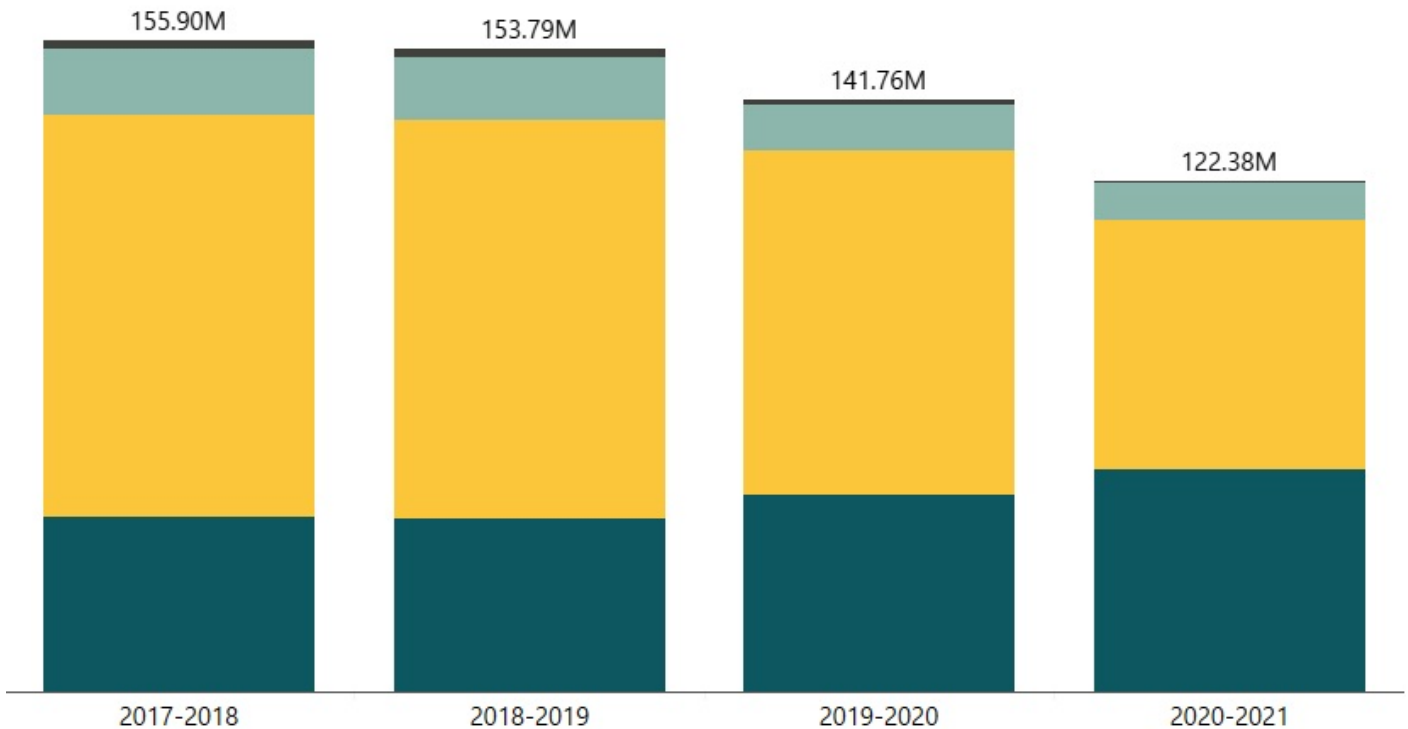
Meal

Supper

Snack

Lunch

Breakfast



Total Meals and Snacks Served

September - August

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, and CACFP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakfast	41.68M	41.44M	47.22M	53.04M
Lunch	96.51M	95.62M	82.31M	60.01M
Snack	15.63M	14.82M	10.83M	8.73M
Supper	2.08M	1.90M	1.40M	0.60M
Grand Total	155.90M	153.79M	141.76M	122.38M

CNS Programs Overview - Trends in Number of Sites

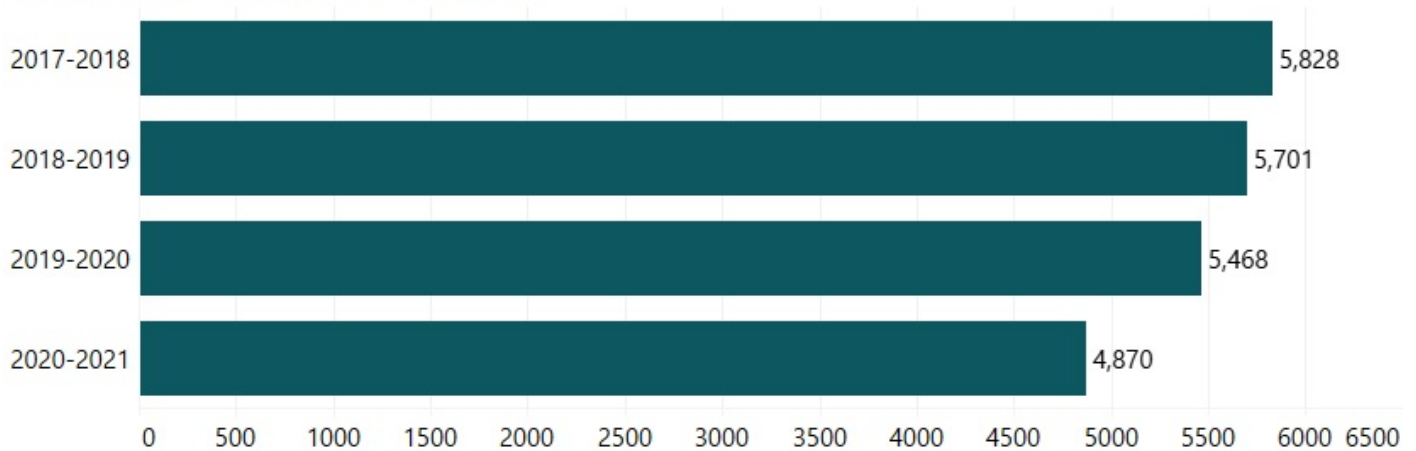
The number of sites operating Child Nutrition Programs decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, many family day care homes and child and adult care centers operating the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) temporarily closed or began providing limited care services. Meals served decreased dramatically as participants stayed at home with teleworking or furloughed parents/guardians.

As result of the economic climate, many centers have closed indefinitely or permanently. Children no longer enrolled in childcare programs have been able to access meals.

Sites Operating Child Nutrition Programs

September - August

Program include NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP



As districts returned to school in remote or hybrid learning models for School Year 2020–21, child care centers and afterschool care programs filled the need to provide all day care and remote learning support for school-age children. This placed a financial strain on the institutions that provided larger quantities of food to school-aged children, while continuing to function at a lower capacity.

Total Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served

September - August

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, and CACFP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakfast	\$73.99M	\$74.54M	\$95.22M	\$120.45M
Lunch	\$229.11M	\$230.38M	\$231.37M	\$238.75M
Snack	\$9.52M	\$9.04M	\$6.78M	\$5.37M
Supper	\$6.64M	\$6.26M	\$4.69M	\$1.93M
Grand Total	\$319.26M	\$320.22M	\$338.05M	\$366.50M

School Meal Programs -Trends in Meals Served

School Year 2020–21

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) started the year utilizing a variety of educational models, with many schools in Washington state operating remotely. The USDA extended waivers, allowing for school meals to be served at no cost through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and distribution to continue in a variety of meal service models.

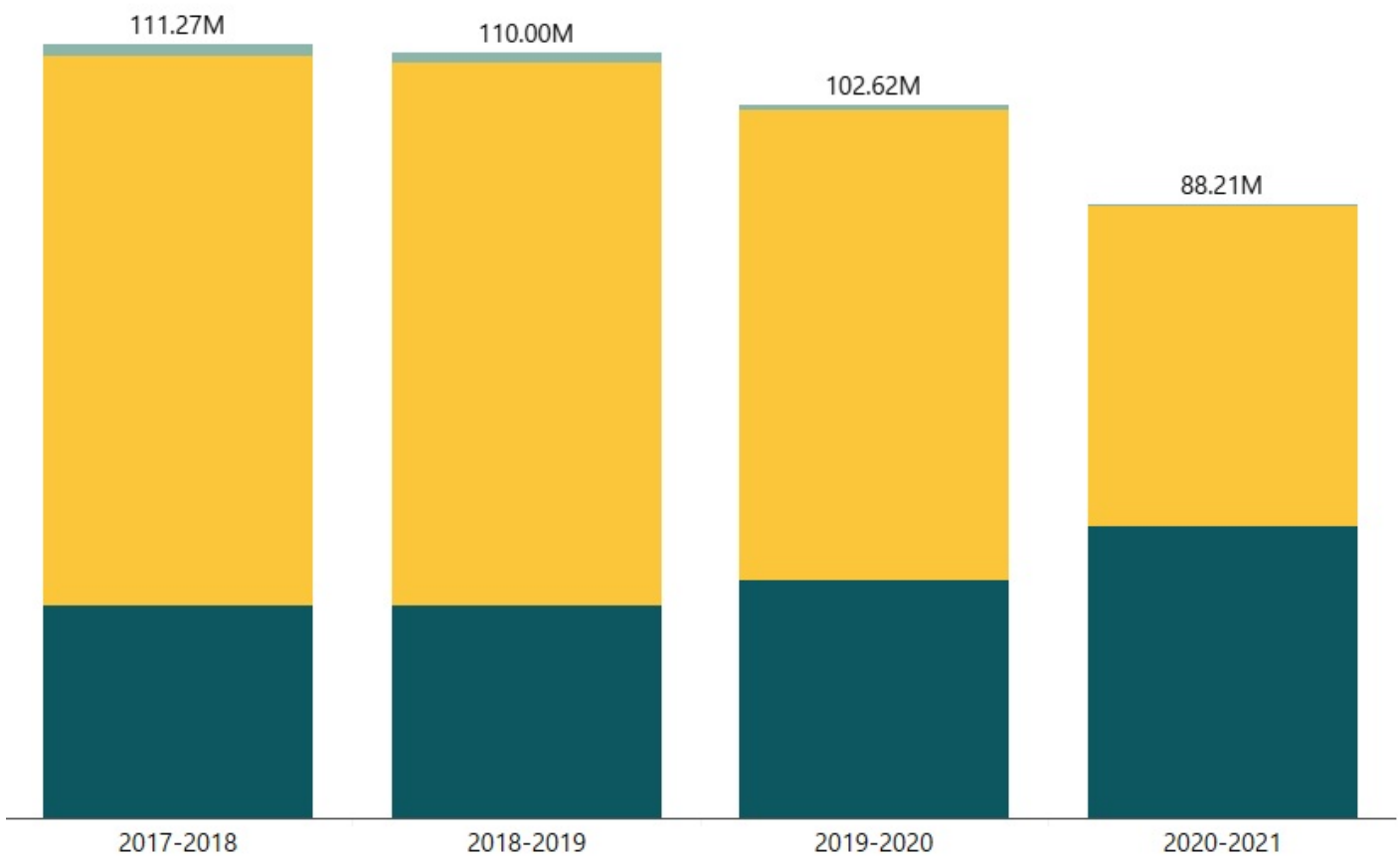
Total Meals and Snacks Served

September - May

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO and SFSP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, and lunch

Meal
■ Snack
■ Lunch
■ Breakfast



Total Meals and Snacks Served

September - May

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO and SFSP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast and lunch

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakfast	30.50M	30.46M	34.26M	42.04M
Lunch	79.07M	78.12M	67.47M	45.99M
Snack	1.70M	1.42M	0.89M	0.18M
Grand Total	111.27M	110.00M	102.62M	88.21M

School Meal Programs - Trends in Number of Sites

The school meal programs promote the health and well-being of children by providing nutritious meals. These programs can be operated by public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions (RCCIs). Washington law requires public schools serving grades 1–4 that have 25% or more students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch to implement a school lunch program (RCW 28A.235.160 (2)). Public schools with 40% or more students qualified for free or reduced-price lunches are required to implement a school breakfast program (RCW 28A.235.160 (3)).

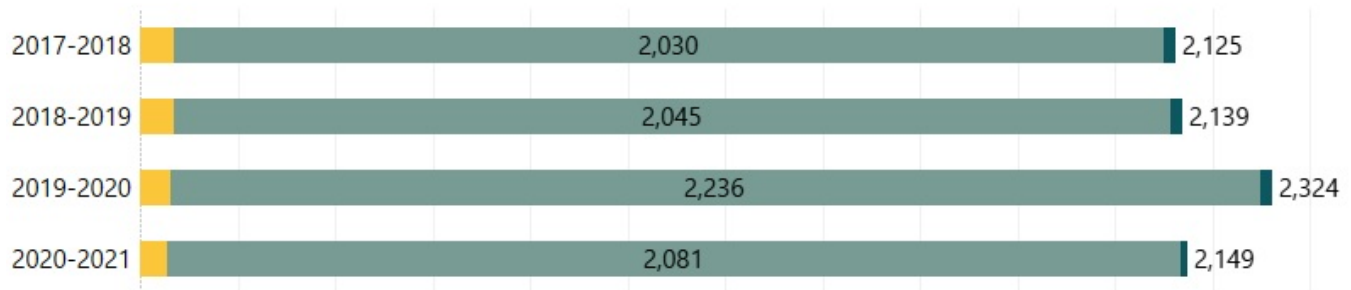
Sites Operating School Meal Programs

September - May

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, and SFSP

Site Type

- Private School
- Public School
- RCCI



Total Meals and Snacks Served

September - May

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, and SFSP

Site Type	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Public School	2,030	2,045	2,236	2,081
Private School	25	24	25	13
RCCI	70	70	63	55
Grand Total	2,125	2,139	2,324	2,149

In 2020 - 2021
88 Million Meals
 Were distributed by
2,149 School Sites
 Across Washington

The chart below represents the reimbursement for participating schools during September – May for their respective years. Reimbursement from SY 20–21 is significantly higher due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many schools closed in March 2020 and changed to Summer Programs, which offer a higher reimbursement rate.

Total Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served

September - May

Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO, and SFSP

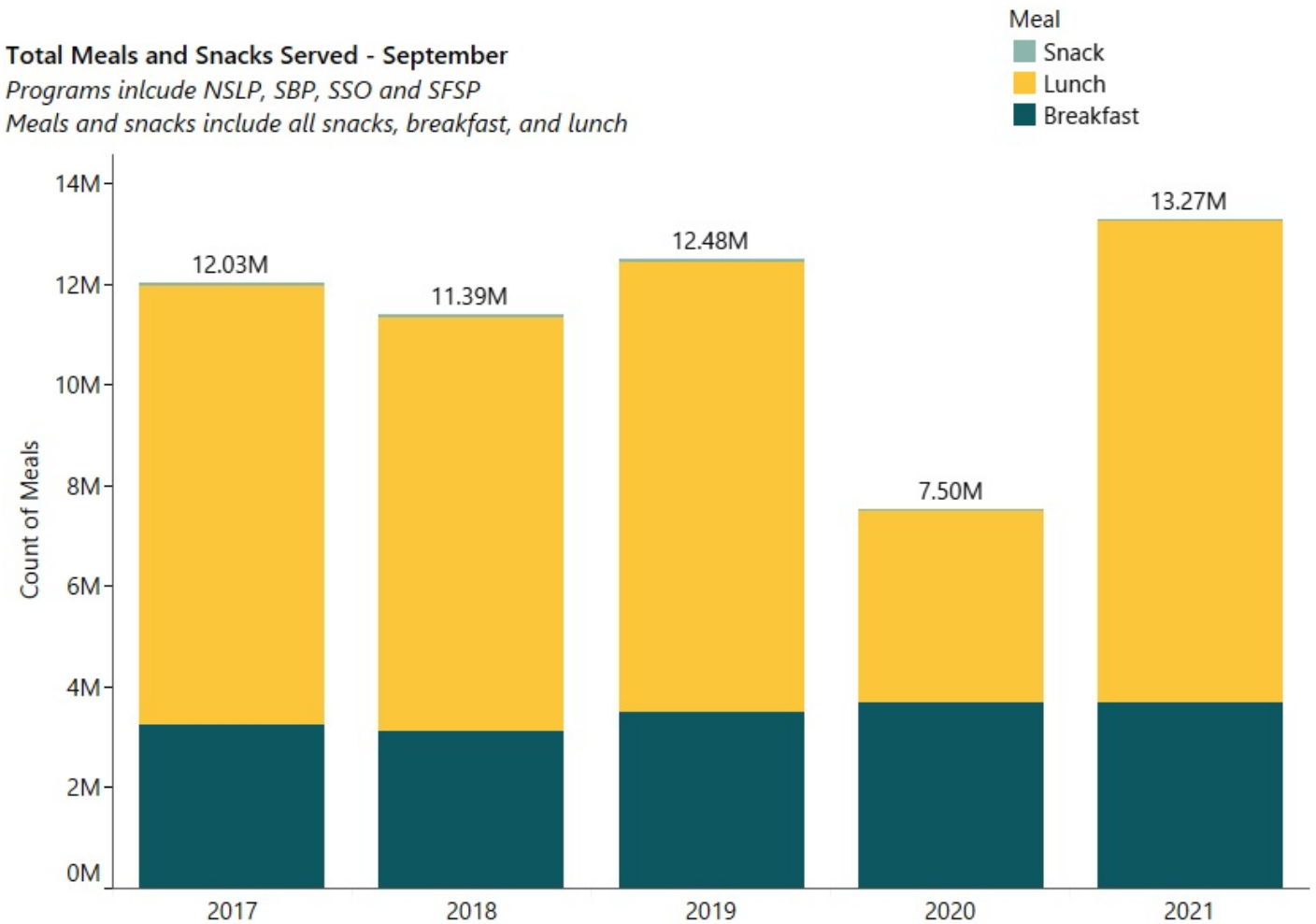
Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, and lunch

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakfast	\$58.75M	\$59.33M	\$71.71M	\$100.22M
Lunch	\$186.61M	\$187.57M	\$183.91M	\$192.50M
Snack	\$1.39M	\$1.21M	\$0.79M	\$0.18M
Grand Total	\$246.76M	\$248.11M	\$256.41M	\$292.90M

Growth In School Meals

As SY 21–22 has progressed, the number of lunches and breakfasts served by public school districts surpassed pre-pandemic levels. At the end of the previous school year, the USDA announced the extension of several nationwide waivers including the utilization of the National School Lunch Program’s (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO), non-congregate meal service, and additional flexibilities through June 2022. These flexibilities allowed schools to serve additional meals, at no cost to the student. As a result, the number of breakfasts served during SY 21–22 continues to rise.

Due to the option to serve meals under the SSO, school meals are not accounted for under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and is reimbursed with NSLP Funds.



Total Meals and Snacks Served - September
Programs include NSLP, SBP, SSO and SFSP
Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, and lunch

Meal	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Snack	0.09M	0.08M	0.07M	0.01M	0.04M
Lunch	8.72M	8.20M	8.91M	3.80M	9.54M
Breakfast	3.23M	3.11M	3.50M	3.69M	3.70M
Grand Total	12.03M	11.39M	12.48M	7.50M	13.27M

School Meals - Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

All students are encouraged to participate in the school meal programs and may qualify for free or reduced-price meals through the school meal application process. The USDA income eligibility guidelines for school meals are intended to direct benefits to children most in need. These guidelines are based on the federal income poverty guidelines and are revised annually.

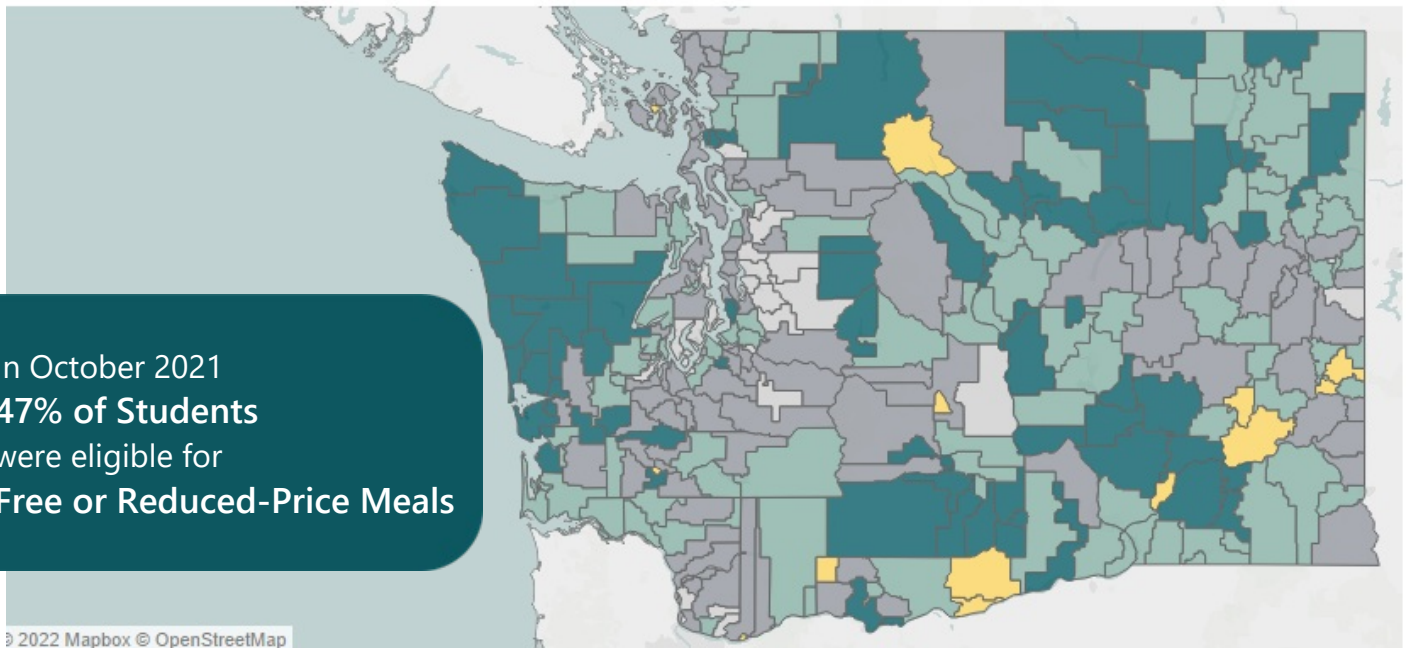
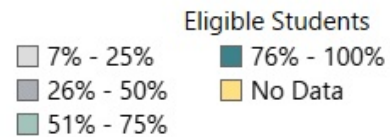
Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

October Building Data
Public Schools



Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

October 2021 Building Data
Public Schools



Direct Certification

Washington State has an electronic system that matches data from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) with OSPI data to produce a "Direct Certification List". Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can use this list to "directly certify" students without further application. This system identifies Basic Food, TANF, migrant, and Foster Care children as automatically eligible for free meals.

Additionally, food service staff work with other district officials to ensure students experiencing homelessness, students eligible for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), students participating in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start programs, and students receiving Medicaid benefits are certified for free meals through Direct Certification programs.

Nutrition Programs

Direct Support

For school year 2020–21, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$7.1 million in support of Child Nutrition Programs. Due to COVID-19 and schools operating the SFSP and SSO at the end of the school year, support by category was adjusted.

Direct Support	
Breakfast Meals for Kids Grants	\$510,000
Elimination of reduced-price breakfast co-pay	\$2,000
Elimination of reduced-price lunch co-pay (K-12)	\$2,000
Free and reduced-price breakfast assistance	\$30,000
State Assistance-Summer promotion and support	\$6,312,000
Summer Food Service Program Assistance	\$255,000
Grand Total	\$7,111,000

In 2020 – 2021
\$7.11 Million
Was approved by WA lawmakers for
Child Nutrition Programs

Initiatives

Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights

The Washington State Legislature passed the Hunger Free Students' Bill of Rights Act during the 2018 legislative session. This law requires districts to clearly communicate their meal charge policy to families, not overtly identify students receiving free or reduced-price meals, and implement measures to ensure eligible students receive meal benefits.

Seated Lunch Duration

Following a performance audit from the State Auditor's Office, OSPI is reviewing practices and rules around seated lunch durations. The performance audit concluded that Washington schools are not meeting the best practice of ensuring students have 20 minutes of seat time to eat lunch.

As directed by a 2019 budget provision, OSPI is conducting a two-year pilot program to gather barriers and best practices to reaching twenty minutes of seat time. The pilot program, although scheduled to conclude in 2021, will resume when the pilot schools resume in-person learning.



Breakfast After the Bell (BAB)

The Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act of 2018 requires schools with a free and reduced-price percentage of 70% or greater to implement Breakfast After the Bell (BAB). As a result, 389 schools operated BAB during the first year of implementation. Breakfast After the Bell allows students the opportunity to eat a nutritious breakfast after the start of the school day, ensuring that they are ready to learn. School closures and virtual learning paused BAB implementation, which is planned to resume in the 22–23 school year.

Community Eligibility Provision

The Community Eligibility Provision provides an alternative approach for offering school meals in low-income areas. The CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students. Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students directly certified for free meals.

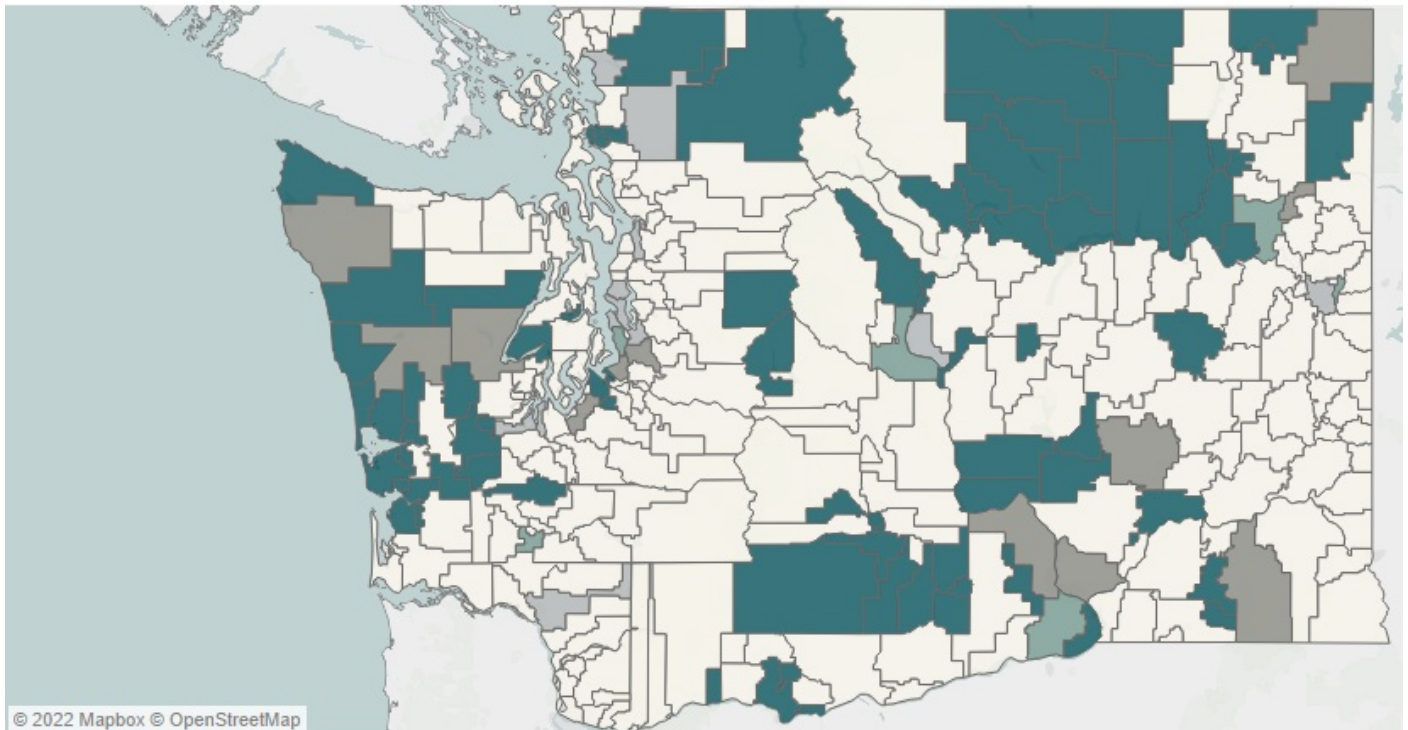
Schools participating in CEP benefit from a reduction in administrative tasks and increased participation in the school meal programs. Participation in CEP also helps to decrease the stigma associated with meal benefits and eliminates meal charge debt.

Percent of Schools Participating in CEP

By School District

October 2021 Building Data

Percent of Schools Participating in CEP



Community Eligibility Provision in Washington

Starting in SY 2021–22, elementary schools in Washington state with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of 62.5% or greater are required to participate in the CEP. The ISP is the proportion of "identified students," out of total enrolled students, who are directly certified for free school meals through means other than a household application.

Most schools in this high-ISP range already operate CEP. Schools with higher ISPs participate at a higher rate. Currently 80% of schools with an ISP of 55% or greater operate the program.

Students that attend a school participating in CEP 193.96K

Students that attend a school that qualifies for CEP 288.33K

Special Milk Program

The Special Milk Program (SMP) was established to offer milk in settings where students do not have access to other Child Nutrition Programs. The SMP provides reimbursement for milk served to children in schools, child care institutions, and summer camps.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Special Milk Programs have decreased. This is likely due to a combination of several circumstances. Most Special Milk Programs operated in Washington are private schools, which transitioned to online learning during the pandemic and resulted in a lower number of milks served.

Additionally, some operators are weekend, winter, and summer camps. Many of these activities were scaled back or canceled during the pandemic, resulting in fewer or no milk being served as part of the Special Milk Program.

Lastly, the availability of Summer Meal Programs likely replaced some of the need for the Special Milk Program. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) allow children from the community to participate in the program at no cost to them.

Sites Participating in SMP

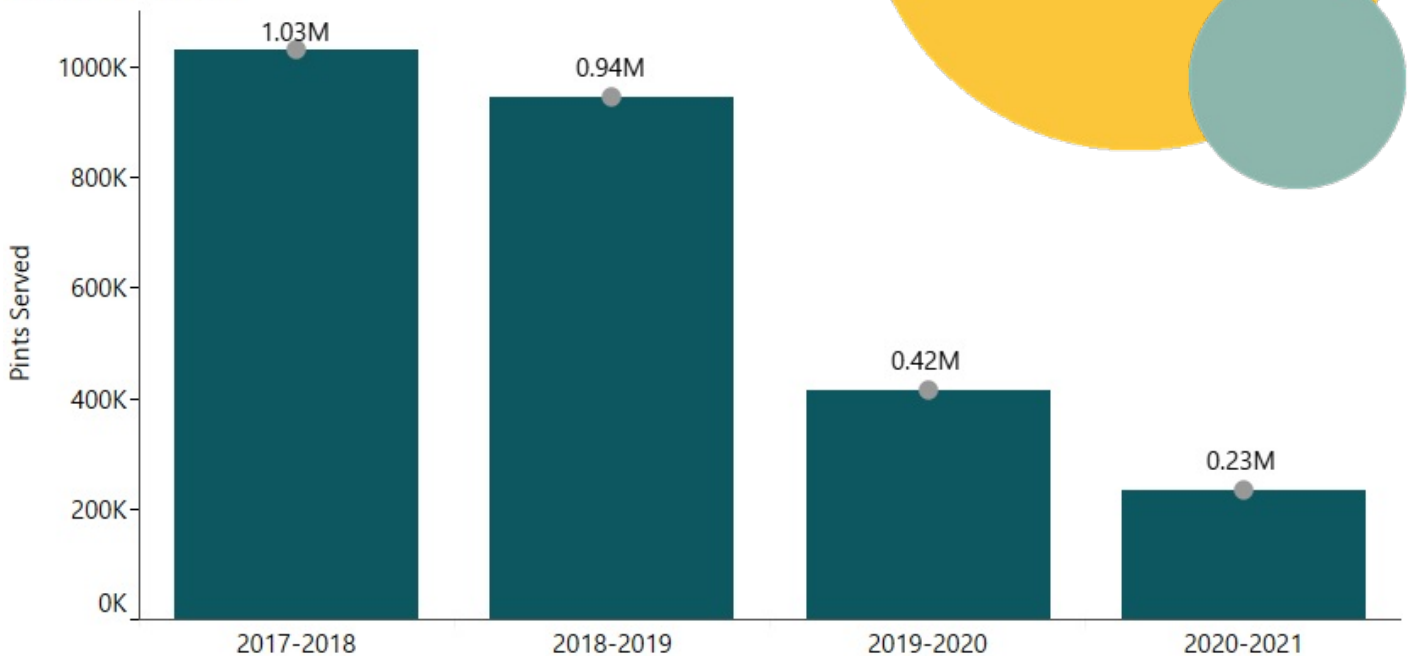
September - August

Site Type	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Public School	4	4	4	3
Private School	34	33	31	14
Other	7	7	6	3
Grand Total	45	44	41	20

In 2020 – 2021
230,000 Pints of Milk
 Were distributed by the
Special Milk Program

Total Pints Served - SMP

September - August



Reimbursement for Pints Served - SMP

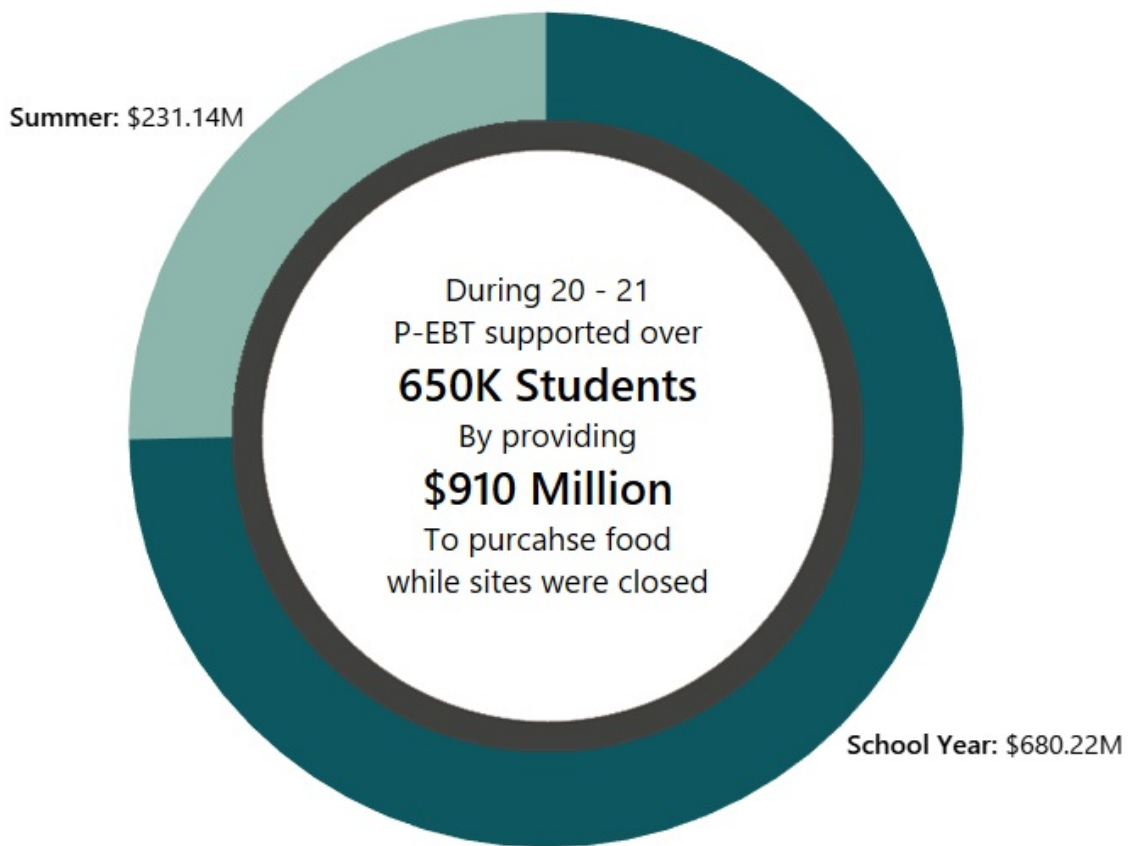
September - August

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Milk	\$203.41K	\$189.44K	\$82.48K	\$39.90K

Pandemic EBT

The Pandemic – EBT program provides food benefits to Washington’s students who had limited access to onsite meals at their school or daycare due to the Covid – 19 pandemic. This helped to alleviate the burden of food costs on families due to missed meals during SY 19–20, SY 20–21 and summer 2021. P-EBT was distributed by the State Department of Social and Health Service in collaboration with OSPI and Child Nutrition Services.

The P-EBT program helped over 650,000 students receive \$910 million to purchase food while schools were not in session. Due to this additional support, families were not accessing Child Nutrition Program meals as frequently, leading to a reduced number of meals served during SY 20–21 compared to the previous year.



Summer Meal Programs -Trends in Meals Served

In traditional Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) operations, the program provides meals to children during summer when school is not in session, typically end of May–August. Programs operate in areas where 50% or more of the children are in households at or below 185% of the federal poverty level and feed children age 18 and younger. Sponsors may serve a maximum of two meals per day, which includes snacks as a meal choice.

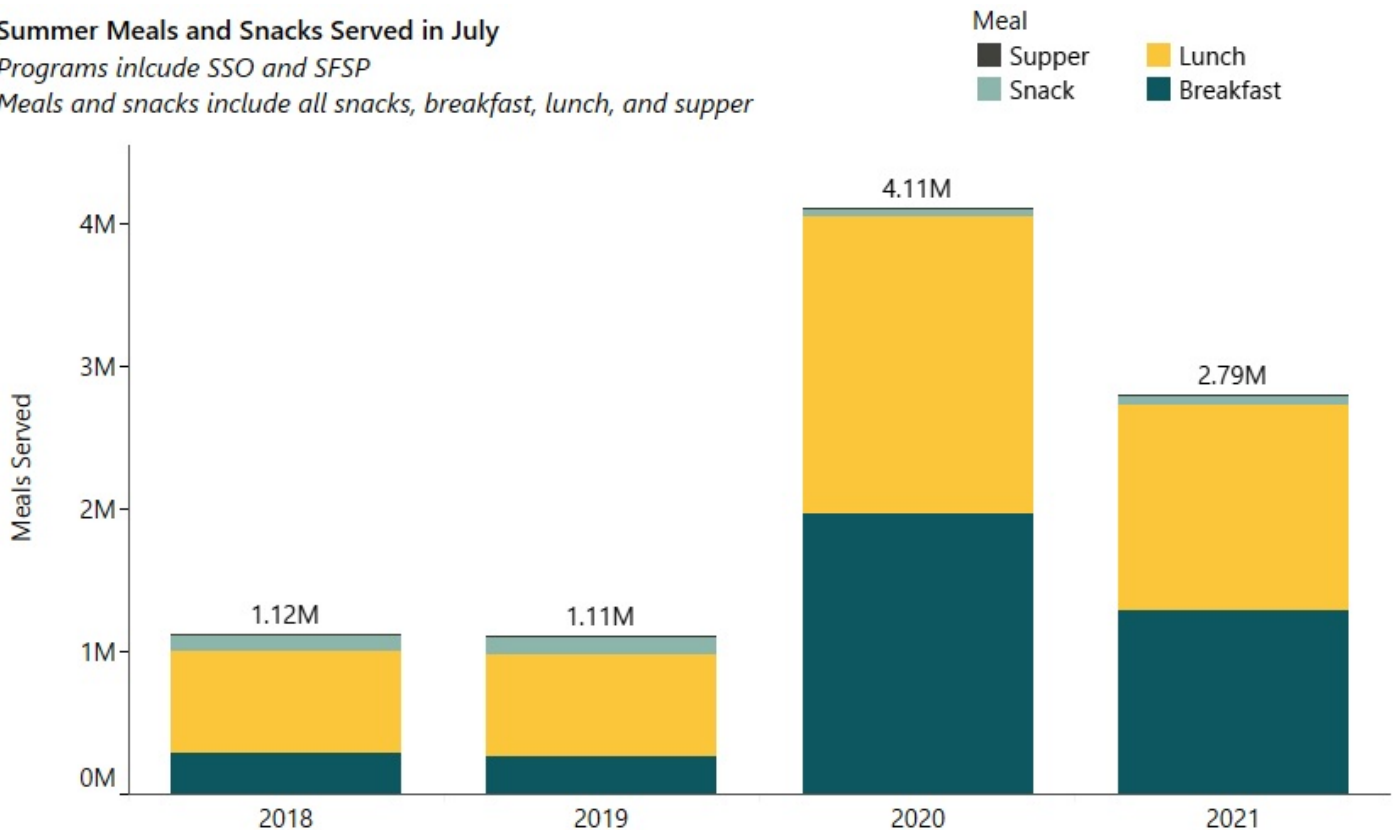
In summer 2020, many school districts continued to offer meals throughout the summer due to the extension of USDA waivers and community needs. Additionally, sponsors of traditional Summer Meal Programs also operated during this time. Collectively, these actions resulted in more meals being served than in a typical summer.

Due to the continued public emergency, program sponsors experienced challenges including staffing shortages, food storage (specifically adequate cold storage), as well as food and supply shortages during summer 2021. These challenges resulted in a reduced number of meals served compared to the previous summer. As a result, the U.S. government released the Families First Coronavirus Act of 2020 which allowed the USDA to launch the Pandemic EBT program. During the summer the P-EBT program helped over 600,000 students receive \$230 million to purchase food while schools were not in session.

Summer Meals and Snacks Served in July

Programs include SSO and SFSP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper



Summer Meals and Snacks Served in July

Programs include SSO and SFSP

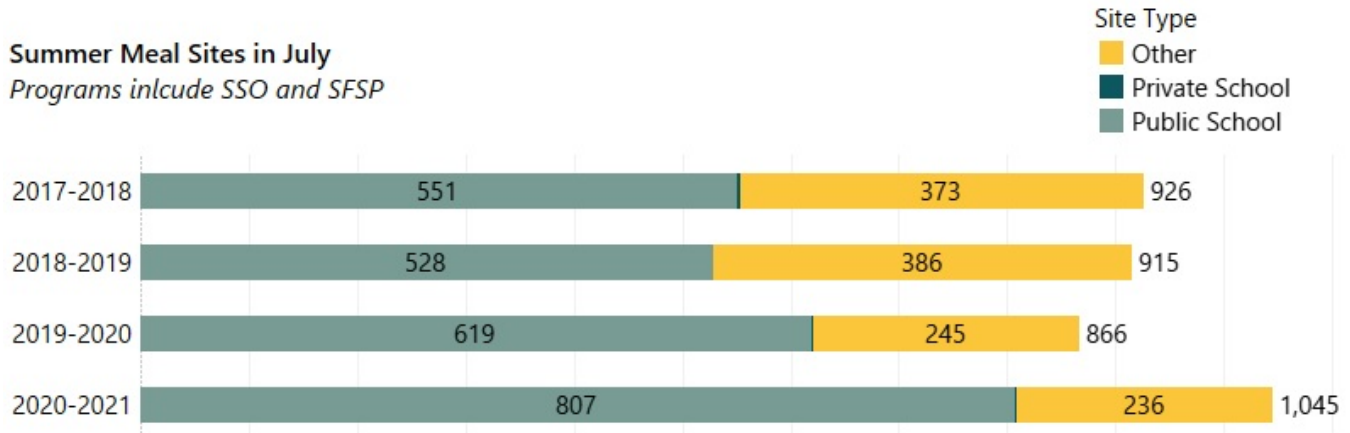
Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal	2018	2019	2020	2021
Breakfast	0.29M	0.26M	1.97M	1.28M
Lunch	0.71M	0.72M	2.08M	1.45M
Snack	0.11M	0.12M	52.18K	58.31K
Supper	10.93K	11.68K	4.16K	4.85K
Grand Total	1.12M	1.11M	4.11M	2.79M

Summer Meal Programs - Trends in Sites

In response to COVID-19, schools and community-based sponsors were able to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) at more sites by using multiple USDA waivers. This resulted in more sites operating the program than ever before. Although more summer sites were operating across the state, fewer meals were served overall due to challenges of the pandemic and family access Pandemic EBT benefits. During the summer the P-EBT program helped over 600,000 students receive \$231 million to purchase food while schools were not in session.

In the summer of 2021
P-BET supported
600,000 students
by providing
\$231 million
to purchase food
while sites were closed



Summer Meal Sites in July
Programs include SSO and SFSP

Site Type	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Public School	551	528	619	807
Private School	2	1	2	2
Other	373	386	245	236
Grand Total	926	915	866	1,045

In July of 2021
2.79 Million Meals
were distributed at
1,045 Summer Sites
Across Washington State

Reimbursement for Summer Meals and Snacks Served in July

Programs include SSO and SFSP

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakfast	\$0.63M	\$0.60M	\$4.61M	\$3.14M
Lunch	\$2.77M	\$2.86M	\$8.50M	\$6.23M
Snack	\$0.10M	\$0.11M	\$0.05M	\$0.06M
Supper	\$0.04M	\$0.05M	\$0.02M	\$0.02M
Grand Total	\$3.54M	\$3.62M	\$13.17M	\$9.46M

Child and Adult Care Food Program - Trends in Meals Served

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides meal reimbursement funds to eligible children and adults enrolled in day care homes, child care centers and adult day care centers. The goal of the CACFP is to improve and maintain the health and nutritional status of children and adults in care, while promoting the development of good eating habits.

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the CACFP offers federal funding to afterschool programs that serve a meal and/or snack to children and youth in low-income areas during the school year. Sponsors must be organized primarily to provide afterschool care for children, be located in the attendance area of a school where at least 50% of the enrolled children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and must include education or enrichment activities to be eligible to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program.

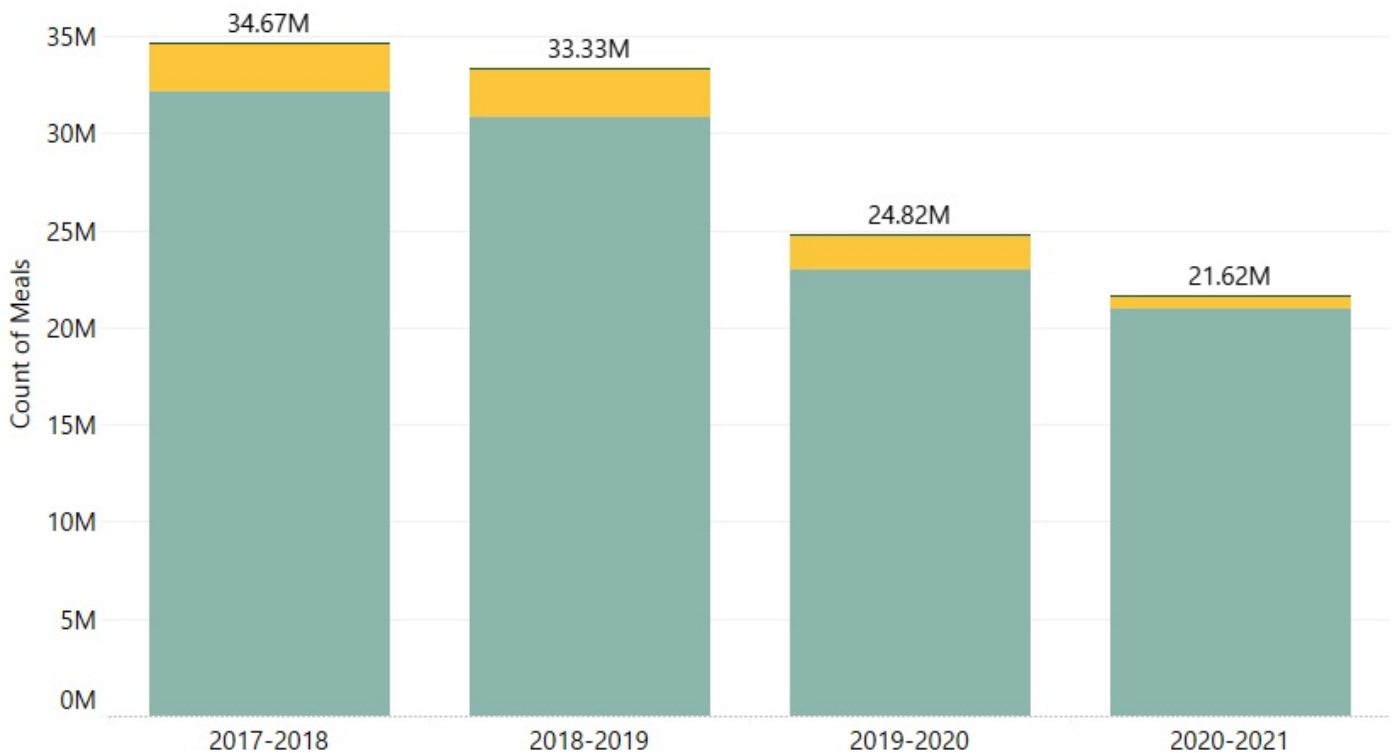
CACFP Meals and Snacks Served

September - August

Programs include Family Day Care Homes, Childcare Centers, and Adult Care
Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal Type

- Emergency Shelter Meals
- At-Risk Meals
- Standard Meals



CACFP Meals and Snacks Served

September - August

Programs include Family Day Care Homes, Childcare Centers, and Adult Care
Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal Type	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
At-Risk Meals	2.44M	2.47M	1.80M	0.62M
Emergency Shelter Meals	59.66K	58.02K	47.61K	53.36K
Standard Meals	32.17M	30.80M	22.98M	20.95M
Grand Total	34.67M	33.33M	24.82M	21.62M

Child and Adult Care Food Programs -Trends in Sites

Many family day care providers and child and adult care centers temporarily closed or began providing limited care services at the beginning of the pandemic. Meals served through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) decreased dramatically. However, children no longer enrolled in childcare programs were able to access meals through local schools or community based sponsored Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites. This is reflected in the increased number of meals served through SFSP.

CACFP Meal Sites

September - August

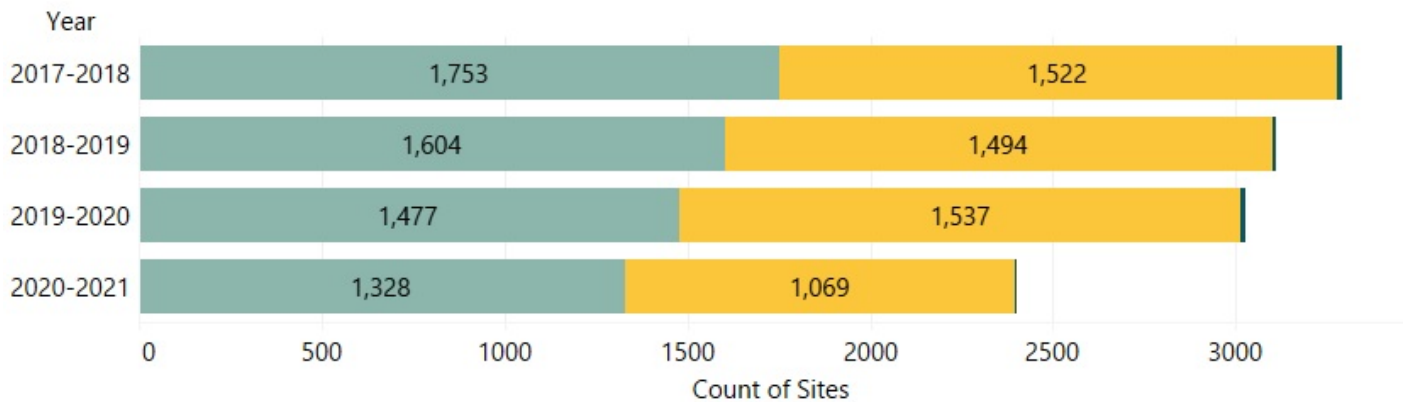
Programs include Family Day Care Homes, Childcare Centers, and Adult Care

Program

■ Adult Care Center

■ Childcare Center

■ Family Day Care Home



CACFP Meal Sites

September - August

Programs include Family Day Care Homes, Childcare Centers, and Adult Care

Program	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Adult Care Center	17	13	12	4
Childcare Center	1,522	1,494	1,537	1,069
Family Day Care Home	1,753	1,604	1,477	1,328
Grand Total	3,292	3,111	3,026	2,401

Reimbursement for CACFP Meals

September - August

Programs include Family Day Care Homes, Childcare Centers, and Adult Care

Meals and snacks include all snacks, breakfast, lunch, and supper

Meal	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakfast	\$7.71M	\$7.38M	\$5.88M	\$4.98M
Lunch	\$18.36M	\$17.85M	\$14.41M	\$12.89M
Snack	\$6.19M	\$5.96M	\$4.83M	\$3.78M
Supper	\$5.99M	\$5.63M	\$4.31M	\$1.42M
Grand Total	\$38.25M	\$36.82M	\$29.42M	\$23.07M

In 2020 - 2021
21.6 Million Meals
 were distributed at
2,401 CACFP Sites
 across Washington state

Food Distribution Program (FDP)

School districts, private schools, and residential child care institutions that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are eligible to receive food purchased by USDA. The OSPI Child Nutrition Services Food Distribution Program coordinates the delivery, storage, and contracting of USDA Foods.

Entitlement Allocation

The USDA Foods Program provides foods such as fruit and vegetables, poultry, eggs, other meat items, nuts, grains, oils, and cheese. NSLP sponsors receive an entitlement of \$0.37 per Total Lunches Served during the previous school year.

Types of Food

USDA Direct Foods - Products purchased by USDA for delivery to schools. This includes unprocessed and minimally processed products, as well as "value-added" items.

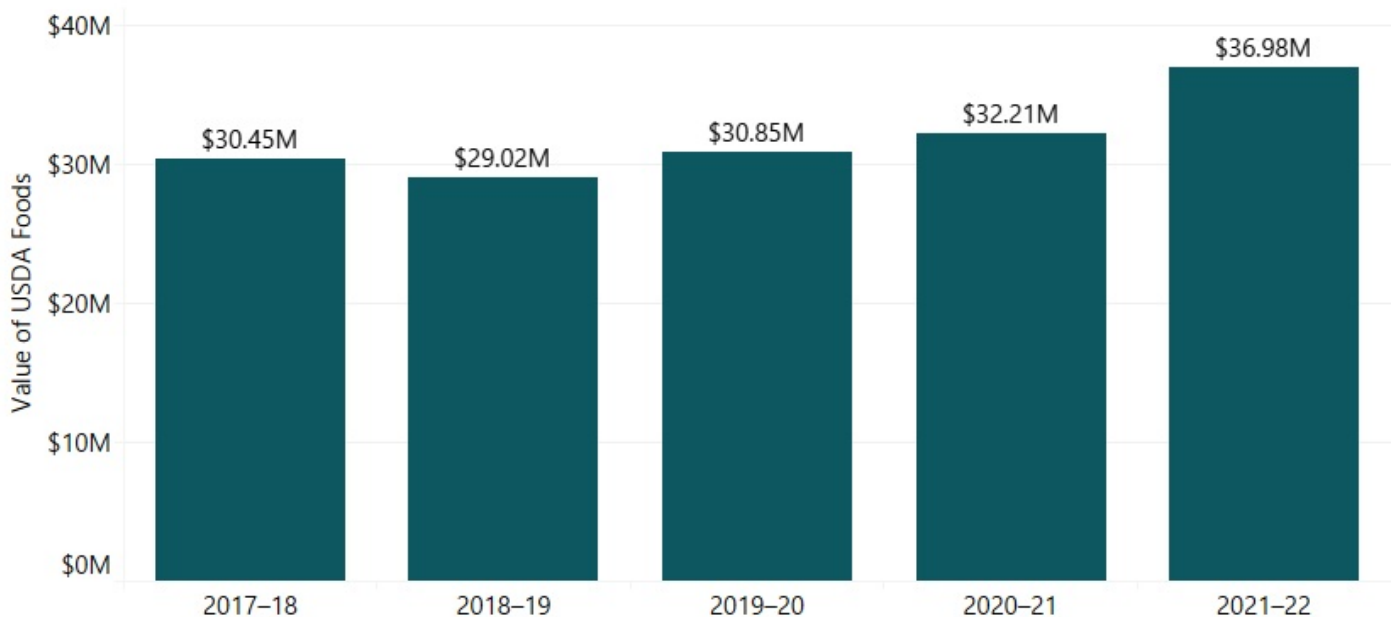
Washington State Processed USDA Foods – Allows states to contract with commercial food processors to convert raw bulk USDA Foods into more convenient, ready-to-use end products.

In 2020 – 2021 FDP distributed
USDA Foods
worth
\$36.9 Million
across Washington state

Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh, U.S. grown produce. The program is operated by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) at the DOD.

Value of USDA Foods Distributed in Washington



Value of USDA Foods Distributed in Washington

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
\$30.45M	\$29.02M	\$30.85M	\$32.21M	\$36.98M

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Download this material in PDF on the Washington State Child Nutrition Programs webpage (<https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/child-nutrition/washington-state-child-nutrition-programs>). This material is available in alternative format upon request. Contact the Resource Center at 888-595-3276, TTY 360-664-3631. Please refer to this document number for quicker service: 21-0009.



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