

Comparison of Summer Meal Programs

The following chart provides information to help determine which summer meal program may be best for your organization.

School districts offering any sort of academic, enrichment, or remedial program during the summer months at qualifying sites **must*** offer a food program. Qualifying sites are defined as those schools that have 50 percent or more of the children enrolled during the regular school year who qualify for free and reduced-price meals (*RCW 28A.235.160).

School districts intending to operate the SFSP or SSO at a site where an academic summer school program is in session must ensure the meal service is open to children in the community as well as summer school children. A school district that wishes to **only** provide meals to students enrolled in an academic summer school program cannot participate in the SFSP or SSO; the only option is extending the NSLP into the summer months.

Topic	Extending NSLP (National School Lunch Program)	SSO (Seamless Summer Option)	SFSP (Summer Food Service Program)
Program Eligibility	LEAs	LEAs administering the NSLP and/or the SBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAs, local government agencies, private non-profit organizations, universities or colleges, community and faith-based organizations • LEAs are waived of the requirement to demonstrate financial and administrative capability for program operations, except for the first year of participation
Meal Service Locations	Schools	<i>Same as SFSP</i>	Schools, camps, churches, community centers, housing projects, libraries, migrant centers, parks, playgrounds, pools and other public sites where children gather

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Meal Costs for Children	Meal cost for children is based on their income eligibility (free, reduced price, paid)	<i>Same as SFSP</i>	All meals are free (camps are only reimbursed for children qualifying for free/reduced price meals)
Times of Operation	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 <u>unanticipated</u> school closures • During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May - September for traditional school calendar areas • October - April during <u>unanticipated</u> school closures • During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar
Establishing Site Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools: public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of State's education system 	<i>Same as SFSP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 • Migrant sites: certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers • Camps: offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children

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Type of Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch 	<i>Same as SFSP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch/Supper <i>(lunch and supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day at the same site, except at camps and migrant sites)</i> • Snack (AM or PM)
Maximum Meals per Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch 	<i>Same as SFSP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 meals for most sites • 3 meals for migrant sites and camps
USDA Foods Entitlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services Food Distribution webpage • May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute 	<i>Same as NSLP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 cents per meal for sponsors and self-prep sites • May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute
Reimbursement Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest reimbursement • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services NSLP Fiscal & Claims webpage • Includes severe need payment • Includes additional 6 cents performance-based reimbursement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals paid at the NSLP free rate (less than SFSP rate) • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services NSLP Fiscal & Claims webpage • Includes severe need payment • Includes additional 6 cents performance-based reimbursement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest reimbursement • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services SFSP Claims & Reimbursements webpage

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Reimbursement Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total meals by type x free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal • Extra \$0.02 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 breakfast in severe need schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If area eligible, all meals reimbursed at NSLP free rate • Extra reimbursements available under NSLP, as applicable • If applications required (camps or closed enrolled in non-eligible area), free and reduced price meals reimbursed at free NSLP rate (no reimbursement for paid meals at these sites) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive the maximum reimbursement (meals x rates) without regard to actual or budgeted costs • May use reimbursements to pay for any allowable program cost • Camps are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children
Monitoring Requirements		Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance at least once during each site's operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the summer program • Site visits the first week of operation (unless waived, per OSPI SFSP policy) • Site review during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed
Meal Pattern	Must meet requirements: 7 CFR 210.10 for NSLP 7 CFR 220.8 for SBP	Same as NSLP Additional flexibilities granted, per SP-39-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards • LEAs may follow the NSLP/SBP meal patterns
Eligible Participants	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 and physically disabled	Same as NSLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons 18 years or younger • Persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the WA State

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Public Notification		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public media notice may be done but is not required • LEA must state in application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will promote the availability of meals to children in the community 	Sponsor must send public media notice regarding program and eligibility
Administrative Reviews (AR)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as NSLP • Must include at least one SSO site in AR of an LEA, per AR guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least every 3 years • More frequently based on program size and prior AR findings