

Comparison of NSLP/SBP Meal Service Options in Washington State

This is a comparison chart between the various meal service options in Washington State offered within the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Options include standard NSLP/SBP operations, [House Bill \(HB\) 1238](#), the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) (CEP), and [Provision 2](#). Multiple meal service options may be implemented within the same Local Education Agency (LEA) – please ensure schools operate in compliance with the meal service option implemented at the site.

Topic	Standard (NSLP/SBP)	HB 1238 (NSLP/SBP)	CEP (NSLP/SBP)	Provision 2 (NSLP/SBP)
Participation Criteria	Public School Districts, Private Schools, Residential Childcare Institutions (RCCIs), Charter Schools, and Tribal Schools may participate in school meal programs.	Public Elementary schools (schools with any K-4 grade levels) where 30% or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals based off October Building Data (October 31) of the preceding school year.	Schools or groups of schools must have an identified student percentage (ISP) of $\geq 25\%$ based off April 1 data of the school year prior to implementing CEP.	All schools operating NSLP or SBP may participate.
Duration of Participation Eligibility	N/A	Annually	4-year cycle	4-year cycle with the first year being a base year
Meals	May offer breakfast and/or lunch.	Required to offer breakfast and lunch.	Required to offer breakfast and lunch.	May implement Provision 2 for just breakfast, lunch, or both.
Income Form	Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application	Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application	Family Income Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Year: Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 2-4: Family Income Survey*
Direct Certification	Must be conducted monthly as required by the WA Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act	Must be conducted monthly as required by the WA Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act.	Must be conducted monthly as required by the WA Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act	Must be conducted monthly as required by the WA Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act
Household Notification of Eligibility Status	Must notify households of their eligibility status.	Must notify households of their eligibility status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households who are directly certified must be notified of their eligibility. It is a local level decision whether to notify households of the results of the Family Income Survey (FIS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Year: Must notify households of their eligibility status. Years 2-4: Households who are directly certified must be notified of their eligibility. It is a local level decision whether to notify households of the results of the Family Income Survey.*
Verification	Verification of free and reduced-price meal applications must be conducted annually by November 15.	Verification of free and reduced-price meal applications must be conducted annually by November 15.	Verification is not required. Although, verification is not required, the verification summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Year: Verification of free and reduced-price meal applications

			report must be completed annually.	<p>must be conducted by November 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 2-4: Verification is not required. Although verification is not required, the verification summary report must be completed annually.*
Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool	Must annually review paid lunch prices by completing the USDA Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLE Tool is required if other schools in the district are operating standard NSLP/SBP. HB 1238 qualifying schools should not be factored into PLE Tool. 	LEAs operating CEP district-wide are not required to complete the PLE Tool.	PLE Tool is required if other schools in the district are operating standard NSLP/SBP and/or Provision 2 is only operated for breakfast.
Meal Counting & Claiming	Meals must be counted and claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).	Meals must be counted and claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meals must be counted and claimed at the point-of-service. By-name meal counting system is not required if 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base year: Meals must be counted and claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status

			safeguards are in place to prevent the claiming of second meals.	(free, reduced-price, and paid). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 2-4: By-name meal counting system is not required if safeguards are in place to prevent the claiming of second meals.*
Claims & Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid). State funding covers the reduced-price copay for public schools for breakfast and lunch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid). State funding covers the difference between the free and paid reimbursement rate, so all meals are reimbursed at the federal free rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement determined by claiming percentages – Free claiming percentage = $ISP \times 1.6$. The difference would be reimbursed in the paid category. State funding covers the difference between the free and paid reimbursement rate for public schools or groups of schools with an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Year: Federal reimbursement by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid). Years 2-4: Federal reimbursement determined by claiming percentages developed based off average participation by eligibility category in the base year.

			ISP of 40% or greater.	
Consent to Share Form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality Requirements of Common Programs 	Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).	Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).	Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).	Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).

*Guidance applies to schools implementing Provision 2 for both breakfast and lunch.