

# 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)
<b>Participation Criteria</b>	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.
<b>Duration of Participation Eligibility</b>	N/A	Annually	4-year cycle	4-year cycle with the first year being a base year
<b>Meals</b>	Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application	Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application	Family Income Survey	May implement Provision 2 for just breakfast, lunch or both.



Topic	Standard (NSLP/SBP)	HB 1238 (NSLP/SBP)	CEP (NSLP/SBP)	Provision 2 (NSLP/SBP)
<b>Income Form</b>	Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application	Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application	Family Income Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Year: Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application</li> <li>• Years 2-4: Family Income Survey*</li> </ul>
<b>Direct Certification</b>	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.
<b>Household Notification of Eligibility Status</b>	Must notify households of their eligibility status.	Must notify households of their eligibility status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Households who are directly certified must be notified of their eligibility.</li> <li>• It is a local level decision whether to notify households of the results of the Family Income Survey (FIS).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Year: Must notify households of their eligibility status.</li> <li>• 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.*</li> </ul>

Topic	Standard (NSLP/SBP)	HB 1238 (NSLP/SBP)	CEP (NSLP/SBP)	Provision 2 (NSLP/SBP)
<b>Verification</b>	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 Report must be completed annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Year: Verification of free and reduced-price meal applications must be conducted by November 15.</li> <li>• Years 2-4: Verification is not required. Although verification is not required, the Verification Summary Report must be completed annually.*</li> </ul>
<b>Paid Lunch Equity (PLE Tool)</b>	Must annually review paid lunch prices by completing the USDA Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLE Tool is required if other schools in the district are operating standard NSLP/SBP.</li> <li>• HB 1238 qualifying schools should not</li> </ul>	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.

Topic	Standard (NSLP/SBP)	HB 1238 (NSLP/SBP)	CEP (NSLP/SBP)	Provision 2 (NSLP/SBP)
		be factored into PLE Tool.		
<b>Meal Counting and Claiming</b>	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"> <li>• Meals must be counted and claimed at the point-of-service.</li> <li>• By-name meal counting system is not required of safeguards are in place to prevent the claiming of second meals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Year: Meals must be counted and claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).</li> <li>• Years 2-4: By-name meal counting system is not required if safeguards are in place to prevent the claiming of second meals.*</li> </ul>
<b>Claims &amp; Reimbursement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal reimbursement determined by claiming percentages – Free claiming percentage = <math>ISP \times 1.6</math>. The difference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Year: Federal reimbursement by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid).</li> <li>• Years 2-4: Federal reimbursement</li> </ul>

Topic	Standard (NSLP/SBP)	HB 1238 (NSLP/SBP)	CEP (NSLP/SBP)	Provision 2 (NSLP/SBP)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State funding covers the reduced-price copay for public schools for breakfast and lunch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State funding covers the difference between the free and paid reimbursement rate, so all meals are reimbursed at the federal free rate.</li> </ul>	<p>would be reimbursed in the paid category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State funding covers the difference between the free and paid reimbursement rate for public schools or groups of schools with an <b>ISP of 40% or greater.</b></li> </ul>	<p>determined by claiming percentages developed based off average participation by eligibility category in the base year.</p>
<p><b>Consent to Share Form</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Confidentiality Requirements of Common Programs</a></li> </ul>	<p>Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).</p>	<p>Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).</p>	<p>Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).</p>	<p>Required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).</p>

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*