

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, [Meals for Washington Students \(Standard\)](#), Meals for Washington Students (Provision 2), 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. The [OSPI State Funding Flowchart](#) shows how certain meal service options impact state funding.

Topic	Standard	Meals for WA Students Standard	Meals for WA Students Provision 2	CEP	Provision 2
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.	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.



Topic	Standard	Meals for WA Students Standard	Meals for WA Students Provision 2	CEP	Provision 2
Duration of Participation Eligibility	N/A	Annually	4-year cycle with the first year being a base year. School must maintain a free and reduced-price percentage of 30% or greater in its Provision 2 Base Year.	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.	Required to offer breakfast and lunch.	May implement Provision 2 for just breakfast, lunch or both.
Income Form	Child Nutrition Eligibility and Education Benefit (CNEEB) Application must be distributed by all schools.				
Direct Certification	Must be conducted monthly as required by the WA Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act.				
Household Notification of Eligibility	Must notify households of their eligibility through direct certification and the Child Nutrition Eligibility & Education Benefit (CNEEB) Application.				
Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verification of CNEEB applications must be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verification of CNEEB applications must be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Year: Verification of CNEEB applications must 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verification is not required. Verification Summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Year: Verification of CNEEB applications

Topic	Standard	Meals for WA Students Standard	Meals for WA Students Provision 2	CEP	Provision 2
	<p>conducted annually by November 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification Summary Report is due by February 1. 	<p>conducted annually by November 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification Summary Report is due by February 1. 	<p>be conducted by November 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 2–4: Verification is not required. • Verification Summary Report must be completed by February 1. * 	<p>Report must be completed by February 1.</p>	<p>must be conducted by November 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 2–4: Verification is not required. • Verification Summary Report by February 1. *
Paid Lunch Equity (PLE Tool)	<p>Must annually review paid lunch prices by completing the USDA Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLE Tool is required if other schools in the district are operating standard NSLP/SBP. • Meals for WA Students' schools should not be factored into PLE Tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLE Tool is required if other schools in the district are operating standard NSLP/SBP. • Meals for WA Students' schools should not be factored into PLE Tool. 	<p>LEAs operating CEP district-wide are not required to complete the PLE Tool.</p>	<p>PLE Tool is required if other schools in the district are operating standard NSLP/SBP and/or Provision 2 is only operated for breakfast.</p>
Meal Counting and Claiming	<p>Meals must be counted and</p>	<p>Meals must be counted and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Year: Meals must be counted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals must be counted and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Year: Meals must be

Topic	Standard	Meals for WA Students Standard	Meals for WA Students Provision 2	CEP	Provision 2
	<p>claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).</p>	<p>claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).</p>	<p>and claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).</p> <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. * 	<p>claimed at the point-of-service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-name meal counting system is not required if safeguards are in place to prevent the claiming of second meals. 	<p>counted and claimed at the point-of-service by eligibility status (free, reduced-price, and paid).</p> <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. *
<p>Claims & Reimbursement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement rate by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reimbursement determined by claiming percentages – Free claiming percentage = ISP x 1.6. The 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base Year: Federal reimbursement by eligibility category for meals served (free, reduced-price, paid).

Topic	Standard	Meals for WA Students Standard	Meals for WA Students Provision 2	CEP	Provision 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State funding covers the reduced-price copay for public schools for breakfast and lunch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> State funding covers the difference between the free and paid reimbursement rate, so all meals are reimbursed at the federal free rate. 	<p>difference would be reimbursed in the paid category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State funding covers the difference between the free and paid reimbursement rate for public schools or groups of schools with an ISP of 40% or greater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 2–4: Federal reimbursement determined by claiming percentages developed based off average participation by eligibility category in the base year.
Disclosure of Eligibility Information	<p>Parental consent is required to share eligibility information with programs not authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) – Confidentiality Requirements of Common Programs.</p>				

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