



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

UPDATE: Status for School Food Service Programs

2025

Authorizing Legislation: Senate Bill 5187 (2023) Sec. 508 (2) [2023-25 Operating Budget]

T.J. Kelly

Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by:

- **Leanne Eko**, Chief Nutrition Officer
leanne.eko@k12.wa.us | 360-725-0410
- **Elizabeth Beechler**, Director of School Meal Programs
elizabeth.beechler@k12.wa.us | 360-522-2103
- **Jessica Seale**, State Initiative Program Specialist
jessica.seale@k12.wa.us | 360-890-6740

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legislative financial support ensures Washington children have access to healthy school meals. In fiscal year 2025, the Legislature provided \$11,548,000 to eliminate the co-pay for reduced-price meals; support summer meal programs; provide school districts financial support for breakfast meal service; and provide grants to improve and expand meal programs. Funding was also used to supplement state support of the Community Eligibility Provision program. State funding is required as a match to secure approximately \$470 million in federal funds.

BACKGROUND

The Washington state Legislature provides funding to Child Nutrition Services at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to help support child nutrition programs in the following ways.

Elimination of Reduced-price Copays

The United States Department of Agriculture requires a standard co-pay for reduced-price meals—30 cents for breakfast, 40 cents for lunch. Normally, school districts would collect this fee from households that participate in the child nutrition programs.

The legislature provides funding for the reduced-price breakfast and lunch copay, allowing students eligible for reduced-price meals to eat school meals at no cost.

Summer Food Service Program

State funding supports state-wide program promotion to raise program awareness.

Meals for Kids Grants

Grants are available for program operators to buy equipment and supplies that help them start or expand a breakfast or summer food program, and for community outreach.

Breakfast Assistance

The state provides additional funding for each free and reduced-price breakfast served to help support the cost of providing breakfast.

UPDATE STATUS

For fiscal year 2025, the state Legislature provided \$11.5 million to OSPI for child nutrition programs. See Table 1 for a breakdown on how these funds were allocated.

Table 1: Funds Spent by Category

2025 Program	Funds
Administration of State funds and grants	\$291,704
Breakfast Assistance	\$8,635,848
Summer promotion and support	\$0
Elimination of reduced-price co-pays	\$1,345,762
Meals for Kids Breakfast Grants	\$375,412
Summer Meals for Kids Grants	\$65,930
Total	\$10,741,656

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

State funds support Child Nutrition Programs and the children that benefit from these programs. Additionally, state funds meet USDA requirements and secure approximately \$470 million in funding from the federal government. These funds are essential in helping provide access to healthy school meals.

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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal | State Superintendent
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building | P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200