

OSPI Child Nutrition Programs Reference Sheet

Comparison of NSLP Snack vs. CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals

This guide provides Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with side-by-side comparison of the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\) Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) and the [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\) At-Risk Afterschool Meals](#). Use this information to make decisions about which program best aligns with operational structure, site eligibility, service model, and administrative capacity.

| Topic | NSLP Afterschool Snack Program | CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals |
|--|--|--|
| Purpose | Provides a reimbursable snack after the school day has ended. | Provides a reimbursable snack and meal after the school day has ended or on non-school days. |
| Site Eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be in the attendance area of a school where at least 50% of enrolled children qualify for free or reduced-price meals (Area Eligible). If not area eligible, children can be claimed based on free, reduced-price or paid eligibility. | Must be in the attendance area of a school where at least 50% of enrolled children qualify for free or reduced-price meals (Area Eligible). |
| Educational/Enrichment Activities | Must operate an afterschool care program with organized, regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities; athletic-only programs are not allowed. | Must operate an afterschool care program with organized, regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities; athletic-only programs are not allowed. |
| Days of Operations | Only on school operating days. | After the school day has ended or on scheduled non-school days during the school year. This includes weekends, holidays, and school breaks. |
| Claiming of Meals | Maximum of one reimbursable snack per child per day. | Maximum of two snacks, or one snack and one meal per child per day. |



| Topic | NSLP Afterschool Snack Program | CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Participation Requirements | Must participate in NSLP. | Must participate in NSLP, SBP or SMP. |
| Reimbursement Structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area-Eligible Sites: All snacks are reimbursed at the free rate. Non-Area Eligible Sites: Snacks are claimed according to free, reduced-price, and paid eligibility. | All snacks and suppers are reimbursed at the free rate. |
| Meal Pattern | Snack: Two out of five components are required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snack: Two out of five components are required Supper: All five components are required. Lunch: (<i>non-school day or early release</i>): All five components are required. Breakfast (<i>nonschool day</i>): Grain, Milk and Fruit and/or veg. are required. <p><i>Please note: Sponsors may choose to follow the NSLP meal pattern.</i></p> |
| Offer versus Serve | Not allowed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allowed for snacks Allowed at meals |
| Administrative Oversight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor conducts at least 2 monitoring visits at each sponsored site. The first monitoring visit must be completed within the first 4 weeks of operation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor conducts at least 2 monitoring visits at each sponsored site. The first monitoring visit must be completed within the first 4 weeks of operation. |
| Eligible Sponsor | School(s) that already operate NSLP and are looking for a simple, snack-only model. | School(s) that already operate NSLP, SBP or SMP and would like to regularly serve snack and supper, with the option to serve a snack/meal on scheduled non-school days during the school year. |

Best Practices

- If a sponsor operates CACFP At-Risk Supper and is interested in also offering after school snack, we encourage claiming snack and supper under the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program.

- If site(s) are interested in only offering afterschool snack, we encourage claiming snacks under the NSLP Afterschool Snack Program.

Definitions

NSLP – Afterschool Snack Program:

The ASP is a component of the NSLP. It provides reimbursable snacks to students participating in eligible afterschool programs that offer educational or enrichment activities.

CACFP – At-Risk Afterschool Care Program:

The At-Risk Afterschool Care Program is a component of the CACFP. It provides reimbursement at the free rate when snacks and/or meals are served to children and teens after the school day has ended or on non-school days. At-Risk sites must be located in are eligible locations and offer educational or enrichment activities.

Reference:

- [7 CFR 210.9 \(c\)\(7\)](#)
- [OSPI Afterschool Snack Program](#)
- [USDA Afterschool Snack Fact Sheet](#)
- [Afterschool Snacks | Food and Nutrition Service](#)
- [7 CFR 226](#)
- [USDA At-Risk Afterschool Meals Handbook](#)
- [CACFP 04-2013](#)

Resource:

- [Afterschool Snack Program Reference Sheet](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program](#)

Acronym Reference

- CACFP – Child and Adult Care Food Program
- LEA – Local Education Agency
- NSLP – National School Lunch Program
- SBP – School Breakfast Program
- SMP – Special Milk Program
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture