

Comparison of Summer Meal Programs

To determine which summer meal program will best serve your organization, use the chart below.

School districts offering any sort of academic, enrichment, or remedial program during the summer months at qualifying sites **must*** offer a food program. Qualifying sites are defined as those schools that have 50 percent or more of the children enrolled during the regular school year who qualify for free and reduced-price meals (*RCW 28A.235.160).

School districts intending to operate the SFSP or SSO at a site where an academic summer school program is in session must ensure the meal service is open to children in the community as well as summer school children. A school district that wishes to **only** provide meals to students enrolled in an academic summer school program cannot participate in the SFSP or SSO; the only option is extending the NSLP into the summer months.

Topic	Extending NSLP (National School Lunch Program)	SSO (Seamless Summer Option)	SFSP (Summer Food Service Program)
Program Eligibility	Local Education Agencies (LEAs)	LEAs administering the NSLP and/or the SBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAs, local government agencies, private non-profit organizations, universities or colleges, community and faith-based organizations • LEAs are waived of the requirement to demonstrate financial and administrative capability for program operations, except for the first year of participation
Meal Service Locations	Schools	Same as SFSP	Schools, camps, churches, community centers, housing projects, libraries, migrant centers, parks, playgrounds, pools and other public sites where children gather
Meal Costs for Children	Meal cost for children is based on their income eligibility (free, reduced-price, paid)	Same as SFSP	All meals are free (camps are only reimbursed for children qualifying for free/reduced-price meals)

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Times of Operation	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas • October – April during unanticipated school closures • During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas • October – April during unanticipated school closures • During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar
Establishing Site Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools: public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of the state’s education system 	Same as SFSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Sites: in the attendance area of a school or in a geographic area defined by census data where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, and open to community • Enrolled sites: 50 percent or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, determined by approved application, or operate in an eligible area • Migrant sites: certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers • Camps: offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children



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Type of Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch 	Same as SFSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch/Supper (lunch and supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day at the same site, except at camps and migrant sites) • Snack (AM or PM)
Maximum Meals per Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch 	Same as SFSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 meals for most sites • 3 meals for migrant sites and camps
USDA Foods Entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services Food Distribution webpage • May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance with statute 	Same as NSLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 cents per meal for sponsors and self-prep sites • May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance with statute
Reimbursement Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest reimbursement • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services Fiscal & Claims webpage • Includes severe need payment • Includes additional \$0.09 performance-based reimbursement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals paid at the NSLP/SBP free rate (less than SFSP rate) • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services Fiscal & Claims webpage • Includes severe need payment • Includes additional \$0.09 performance-based reimbursement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest reimbursement • As noted on the OSPI Child Nutrition Services Fiscal & Claims webpage



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Reimbursement Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total meals by type x free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal • State co-pays for Reduced-Price meals remain in effect • State co-pays for Meals for Washington Students and CEP are not provided during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursed based on meals x NSLP/SBP free rate • Camps and non-area eligible, closed enrolled sites are reimbursement only for meals served to eligible children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive the maximum reimbursement (meals x rates) without regard to actual or budgeted costs • May use reimbursements to pay for any allowable program cost • Camps are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children
Monitoring Requirements		Site reviews in the first three weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the summer program • Site visits the first week of operation (unless waived, per OSPI SFSP policy) • Site review during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed
Meal Pattern	Must meet requirements in 7 CFR 210.10 for NSLP and 7 CFR 220.8 for SBP	NSLP/SBP Meal Pattern Requirements for the predominant age/grade group served at the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards • LEAs may follow the NSLP/SBP meal patterns
Eligible Participants	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the State agency, including: persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally and physically disabled	Same as SFSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons 18 years or younger • Persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by Washington state.



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Public Notification	All NSLP/SBP Sponsors must provide outreach on meals available through SFSP/SSO regardless of whether they are operating SFSP/SSO	All NSLP/SBP Sponsors must provide outreach on meals available through SFSP/SSO regardless of whether they are operating SFSP/SSO	Sponsor must send public media notice regarding program and eligibility
Administrative Reviews (AR)	At least once every 5 years	At least once every 5 years in conjunction with the NSLP/SBP AR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least every 3 years • More frequently based on program size and prior AR findings

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