

OSPI School Meal Programs Renewal Application Checklist

SY 2026–27 NSLP and SBP Renewal Checklist

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) planning to operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP) during School Year (SY) 2026–27 must complete a program application.

LEAs may use this checklist as a guide to complete the SY 2026–27 application. You do not need to return this form to OSPI. We recommend gathering all your required materials before starting your Washington Integrated Nutrition System (WINS) program application and [School Meals Annual Renewal Tasks Form](#).

United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Program requirements are subject to change both as updated guidance is received from the USDA and at the discretion of the State agency. Please review [CNS Updates](#) and OSPI's website for all important updates and/or changes.

Requirements

Step 1: Apply for the NSLP/SBP for SY 2026–27 in WINS

[Log into WINS](#), go to the sponsor profile.

Enter UEI number on Sponsor Profile

Each Sponsor receiving funds from the U.S. Government is required to have a unique identifier called a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Please enter your UEI on the Sponsor Profile page if it is not already included. For more information and to request a UEI, please visit [SAM.gov](#).

Complete the Sponsor Application (check the NSLP & SBP)

- a. Select the "Sponsor Profile" button in the upper right-hand corner.
- b. Select the "Renew Application" button on the "Applications" tab and complete the Sponsor Application wizard.
 - Review and update all sponsor information in the 'Sponsor Application' section in WINS.
 - The address section will require updating and confirmation that it is correct.
 - Staff Contact Information must be entered or updated when completing the application. Inactive and past employees should be removed. Reference the [Updating Sponsor Contacts Information Sheet](#) for detailed information on updating WINS.



Ensure contact information, including email addresses, are current and entered correctly.

- Contacts entered in this section will now show in the Sponsor Staff box on the *Sponsor Profile* page.
 - c. **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:** If your organization participates in lobbying activities and receives more than \$100,000 in federal funds, the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form must be uploaded. The form is available to download within the Sponsor Application.
 - d. **Charter Schools, Private Schools & Private RCCI ONLY: 501(c)3 Determination Letter:** Charter schools, Private schools and private RCCIs must upload the determination letter on annual attestation of 501(c)3 status from the Internal Revenue Service granting non-profit status.
- Site Application: For each site that will serve meals, complete a site application and site calendar.
- a. **Service Type for Breakfast:** If your LEA is implementing an alternate breakfast model, like Breakfast After the Bell, please indicate which method is being used (i.e., Grab n Go, Second Chance, Breakfast in the Classroom).
 - b. **Paid Meal Price:** The reduced-price copay will be covered for all grade levels at breakfast and lunch for **public school districts**.
 - Schools operating CEP, Provision 2, or Elementary Schools offering meals at no cost under HB 1238 should enter \$0.00 for paid and reduced-price meal prices.
 - c. **Private RCCI ONLY: Operating License**—Private RCCIs must have a current license for each site to participate in the NSLP/SBP. Upload a copy of your license in the site application. If a license has not been issued, upload a copy of the Department of Social and Health Services letter.
- Site Calendar: For each site that will serve meals, complete a site application and site calendar.
- a. Add an NSLP Schedule for the school year.
 - b. Include the meals to be served and the appropriate meal service times.
 - **NOTE:** The meals program type may default to “Seamless” and should be revised to ‘Breakfast’ or ‘Lunch.’
 - c. **If Operating Afterschool Snack:** Please create a separate Snack schedule that reflects actual operating dates, days, and times.
- FSMC and Vended Meal Sponsors Only:** Contract Fact Sheet – All LEAs contracting with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) or vendor must submit a contract fact sheet in WINS.
- Submit WINS Application

- a. Go to the "Current Overview" tab to review your application, confirming that each section is submitted.
- b. Once the status of your application shows as 'submitted', your program specialist will be alerted that your application is ready to be reviewed.

Step 2: Submit Additional Required Documents

Additional documents are submitted through the [School Meals Annual Renewal Tasks \(SMART\) Form](#).

- Hiring Standards:** Food Service Directors hired on or after July 1, 2025, must submit a resume or supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance with minimum hiring standards established per 7 CFR 210.30. Reference the [Professional Standards Flyer](#) for more information.
- Summer-EBT Contacts:** Each LEA operating the NSLP/SBP must provide eligibility information to qualify students for Summer-EBT annually. LEAs are required to designate two Summer-EBT contacts that are responsible for submitting this information. Reference the [Summer EBT FAQ](#) for information.
- Interagency Agreements:** Interagency agreements for reimbursable school meals may be made between two Child Nutrition Program Sponsors. Agreements must be submitted to OSPI.
- Operational Flexibilities**
 - **Buy American Accommodation Request:** Non-domestic food purchased by the School Food Authority (SFA) cannot exceed the 10% of total commercial food costs. LEAs can request an accommodation to meeting the Buy American requirements in SY 2026-27 if there are concerns about maintaining the 10% non-domestic food purchase threshold. Review the [Buy American Accommodation Request Policy Memo](#) for details.
 - **Flexibility in Determining Effective Date of Eligibility:** LEAs may request flexibility from OSPI to move the effective date of eligibility to an earlier date under certain circumstances for applications, Direct Certification, and other source categorical eligibility determinations. Review the [Flexibility in Determining Effective Date of Eligibility Reference Sheet](#) for details on requirements.
 - **Milk Substitute Notification:** Sponsors are required to notify OSPI of their intent to provide a milk substitute other than for students with disabilities. For more information, please reference the [Milk & Milk Substitute Reference Sheet](#).
 - **Vending Machines for Reimbursable Meals:** Vending machines are an innovative way to provide reimbursable schools meals. Vending machines continue to be subject to all program regulations and represent an extension of the school food service area. Use of vending machines to provide reimbursable

school meals must be approved annually by OSPI. Please reference the [Vending Machines Reference Sheet](#) for more information.

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Compliance: Sponsors are required to notify OSPI Child Nutrition Services of how they intend to meet Paid Lunch Equity requirements. For more information on PLE requirements, please reference the [Paid Lunch Equity Reference Sheet](#).

LEAs with a positive or zero balance in the non-profit school food service account on June 30, 2025, must upload documentation demonstrating this balance to receive an exemption to PLE pricing requirements. Review the [PLE Exemption Reference Sheet](#) for more information.

HB 1238 ONLY: LEAs with schools eligible to offer meals at no cost under HB 1238 must opt-in to receive the state co-pays for school year 2026-27.

RCCI ONLY: Income Policy Statement — RCCIs are required to document student eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. **Submit this form only if the policy has changed from the previous submission.** If changes are necessary, you must describe if students have income, how much, and how the money is accounted for.

Step 3: Submit Reports as Required to OSPI

- a. **Private Schools & RCCIs Only:** Submit the [Child Nutrition Financial Report](#) by December 31, 2026.
- b. **FSMCs Only:** Submit the [Financial Information Report \(Form 1505\)](#) by December 31, 2026.
- c. All LEAs must submit the [Verification Summary Report \(VSR\)](#) in WINS by February 1, 2027.

Step 4: Complete Monitoring Requirements for NSLP and SBP by February 1, 2027.

- a. All sponsors must complete site reviews annually by February 1.
- b. Forms can be found on the [NSLP Requirements and Materials webpage](#).
- c. Keep the form on file in the district office—You are not required to submit this form to OSPI.

Resources

- [National School Lunch Program webpage](#)
- [NSLP Requirements and Materials webpage](#)
- [Menu Planning and Meal Pattern webpage](#)

Acronym Reference

- CEP – Community Eligibility Provision
- FSMC – Food Service Management Company
- HB – House Bill
- LEA – Local Education Agency
- NSLP – National School Lunch Program
- OSPI – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- PLE – Paid Lunch Equity
- RCCI – Residential Childcare Institution
- SBP – School Breakfast Program
- SFA – School Food Authority
- UEI – Unique Entity Identifier
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
- WINS – Washington Integrated Nutrition System