

School Nutrition Unit

Fact Sheet



COLORADO
Department of Education

Purpose

CDE’s School Nutrition Unit administers federal and state school nutrition programs in 184 local school districts and charter schools throughout Colorado.

Office of School Nutrition Unit

School Nutrition is committed to ensuring all school-aged children have equal access to healthy meals by supporting, training and connecting Colorado’s child nutrition community. School Nutrition provides:

- Reimbursement to school food authorities (SFAs) and sponsors for meals and snacks that follow federal and state requirements, including offering free and reduced priced meals to eligible students.
- Monitoring of SFAs and sponsors to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines and regulations.
- In-person and online trainings, classes and workshops for school food service staff and stakeholders.
- Targeted support and resources to promote program integrity, innovation and effectiveness.

Program Overview

- **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP):** School meals are planned for students 4 through 18 years old. The NSLP and SBP can provide more than 50 percent of nutrient intake on school days. Specific meal patterns and nutrition standards are required and are based on the latest *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- **Summer Food Service (SFSP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable, Afterschool Snack and Special Milk programs:** These programs provide meals and snacks to children at times when the NSLP and SBP are not operating. The SFSP provides a safe environment for access to nutritious meals for ages 18 and under during the summer.
- **Provisional Programs, including the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP),** improve access to free school meals in eligible high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools. In 2016-2017, 18 LEAs are participating in CEP, reaching over 39,244 students.

Program Impact

- Participation in child nutrition programs has shown to reduce food insecurity, improve dietary intake, positively affect health and obesity rates and improve learning through meeting students’ nutritional needs. Additionally, child nutrition programs bring federal dollars into communities in the form of combined reimbursements for meals and operations/administrative costs.

Federal Programs:

- [National School Lunch Program](#)
- [School Breakfast Program](#)
- [Summer Food Service Program](#)
- [Afterschool Snack Program](#)
- [Special Milk Program](#)
- [Provisional Programs](#)

State Programs:

- [Start Smart Nutrition Program](#)
- [Lunch Protection Act](#)
- [Breakfast After the Bell](#)

Number of sites and sponsors operating school nutrition programs during school year 2016-2017:

	Sites	Sponsors
Breakfast	1,419	170
Lunch	1,699	183
Milk	50	24
Snack	269	41
Summer	635	85

Students in grades preK-12 eligible for free and reduced-price meals:

School year 2016-2017

- Free: 312,801
- Reduced Price: 68,302

School year 2017-2018

- Free: 308,382
- Reduced Price: 71,076

<u>Student Enrollment</u>	<u>Number of SFAs</u>
≤ 50	6
51 to 500	83
501 to 1,000	22
1,001 to 5,000	42
5,001 to 10,000	12
≥ 10,001	19

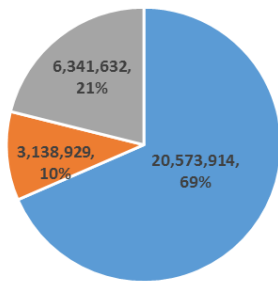
Program Data at a Glance



Meals Served in School Year 2016-2017

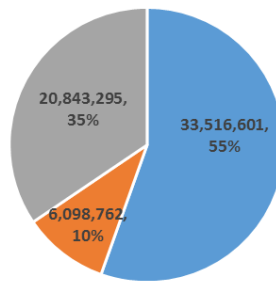
Breakfast: 30,053,762; Lunch: 60,459,460

School Breakfast Program



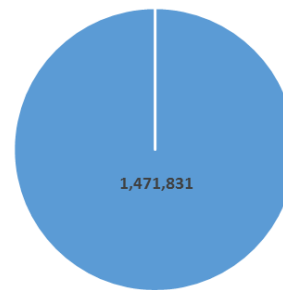
■ Free ■ Reduced-Price ■ Paid

National School Lunch Program



■ Free ■ Reduced-Price ■ Paid

Summer Food Service Program



■ Free Summer Meals



State and Federal Reimbursement in School Year 2016-2017

	Federal Reimbursement	State Reimbursement	Total Reimbursement
Breakfast (SBP)	\$ 48,965,660.54	\$ 941,140.00	\$ 49,906,800.54
Lunch (NSLP)	\$ 133,326,577.46	\$ 1,474,221.20	\$ 134,800,798.66
Milk (SMP)	\$ 101,962.95	\$ -	\$ 101,962.95
Afterschool Snack (ASP)	\$ 1,230,029.65	\$ -	\$ 1,230,029.65
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)	\$ 2,968,275.39	\$ -	\$ 2,968,275.39
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)	\$ 4,673,314.54	\$ -	\$ 4,673,314.54
State Revenue Matching Funds	\$ -	\$ 2,472,644.00	\$ 2,472,644.00
Total	\$ 191,265,820.53	\$ 4,888,005.20	\$ 196,153,825.73

Note: charts do not include School Nutrition administrative funds. Reimbursement totals are subject to change, due to claim adjustments.

Where can I learn more?

- [Learn more on the CDE School Nutrition's webpage.](#)
- [View frequently requested information on the CDE School Nutrition's Data Request webpage.](#)
- [View all CDE fact sheets on the CDE Fact sheets and FAQs webpage.](#)

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