

Healthy School Meals for All Program



The Healthy School Meals for All program allows public school districts participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to provide free meals to all students beginning School Year 2023-24. Additional components of the program, including funding to increase wages or provide stipends for front line school kitchen staff and incentives to districts to purchase local food, are subject to available funding and may be available in future years.

Participation in the program was much larger than anticipated, with statewide increases of 37% in school breakfast and 30% in school lunch compared to prior years. Due to the popularity of the program, the expense to the state is higher than originally estimated.

In April 2024, [a state law](#) was passed requiring the Colorado Department of Education to form a technical advisory work group to suggest ways to balance program revenues and spending.



COLORADO
Department of Education

CDE will work with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Office of State Planning and Budget and a team of expert facilitators and researchers to lead an open and transparent process that includes robust stakeholder engagement. As part of this stakeholder engagement process, a public feedback period will be available to solicit policy suggestions and better understand the values related to this program that are important to the public. The public comment period will occur in two phases. The first phase begins Monday, September 9 and closes on September 30. A second round of public comments will open in mid-October. [Complete this form to share comments.](#)

Task force meetings and stakeholder engagement will occur from **July 2024 through October 2024**. A final report with legislative options will be submitted to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees, the joining budget committee, the state board of education and the governor.

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Visit the [Healthy School Meals for All program webpage.](#)

View the [Healthy School Meals for All program video.](#)

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