

School Nutrition Unit

School Year 2022-23 Impact Report



COLORADO
Department of Education

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Letter from the Director

Brehan Riley, MS, RD, SNS



Another incredible year to reflect on our important work to nourish young bodies and minds while working to end childhood hunger in this great state. Join me in celebrating all we have achieved together this past year.

Our report showcases how we have met our mission to support our child nutrition community through innovation, training, and partnerships. It also gives us a glimpse at what's to come in ensuring all children and teens have access to healthy meals.

We continue to remain customer focused by listening to your needs, remaining flexible and committed to program expansion. We are excited to support you with our newest initiatives such as Healthy School Meals for All, Direct Certification – Medicaid and Farm to School. These programs will increase participation, reduce stigma, and continue to promote a healthy diet.

Thank you to our team, sponsors and partners for their passion and commitment to serving healthy meals to all. Our dedication to program development and expansion for Colorado families ensures our children are nourished and ready to learn.



Vision

Nourish young bodies and minds.
End childhood hunger

Mission

We support the child nutrition community through innovation, training, and partnerships to ensure all children and teens have access to healthy meals.

Values

Passion: We are distinguished by our people who bring skill, experience, and commitment to service.

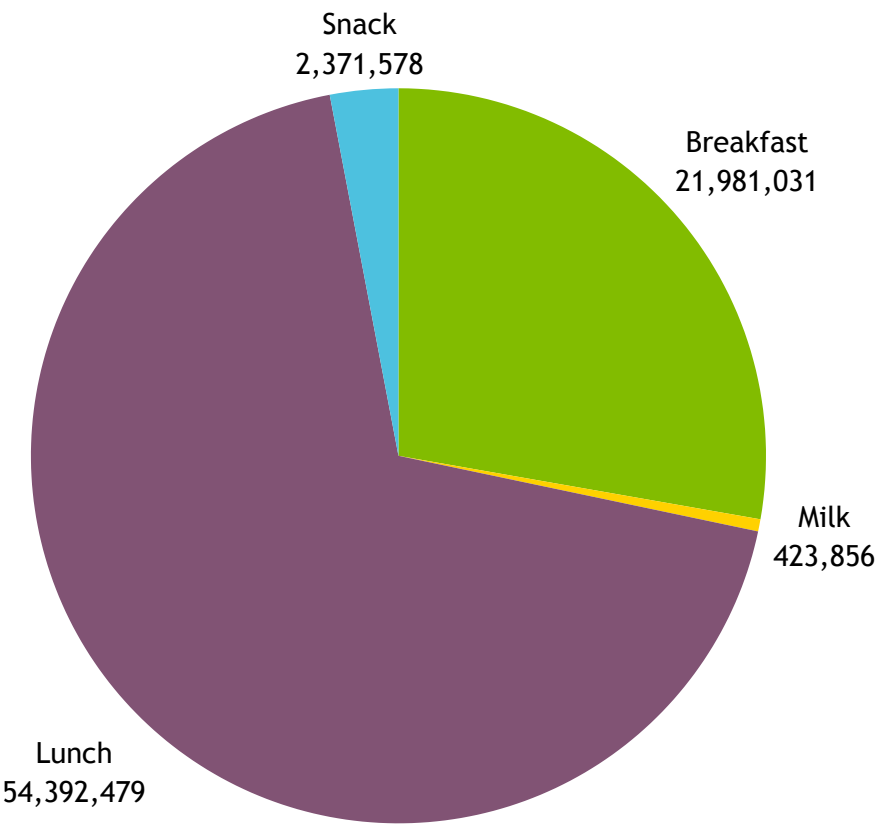
Customer Focused: We build meaningful relationships, collaborate, and empower.

Growth: We are committed to innovation, learning and continuous development.

Meals and Snacks Served

National School Lunch Program & National School Breakfast Program

Total Meals for School Year 2022-23 (July 2022 - June 2023)



79,168,944
Total Meals
Served*

*Note: Meal count numbers are subject to change due to claim adjustments.

Sponsors and Sites for School Year 2022-23



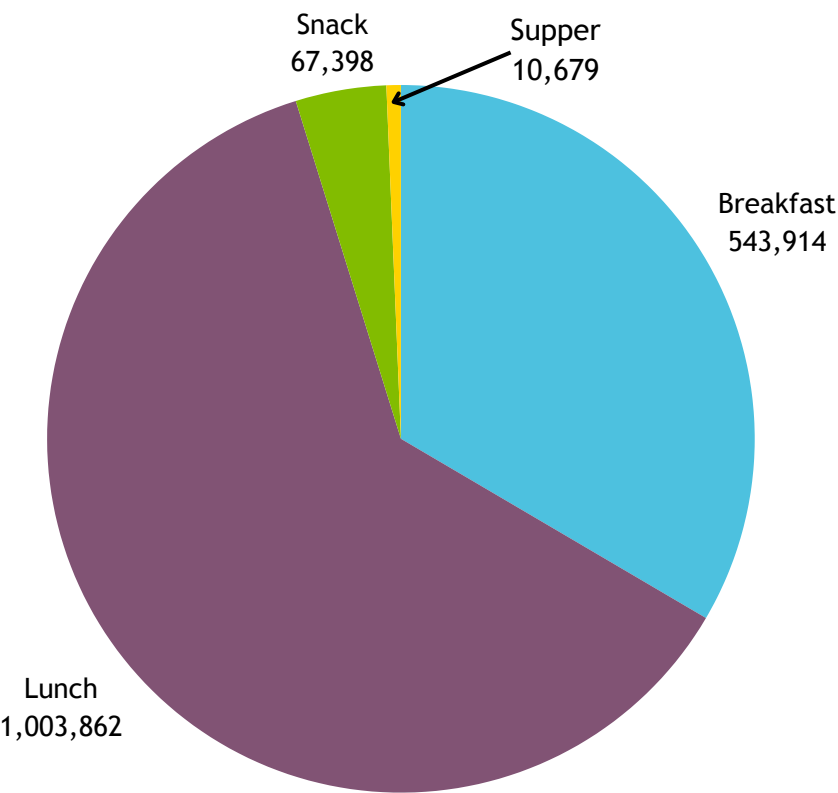
206 Sponsors

1,787 Sites

Meals and Snacks Served

Summer Food Service Program

Total Meals for Summer 2023 (May - Aug 2023)



**1,625,853
Total Meals
Served***

*Note: Meal count numbers are subject to change due to claim adjustments.

Sponsors and Sites for Summer 2023

77 Sponsors

583 Sites



School Nutrition Accomplishments

Healthy School Meals for All

In November 2022, Colorado voters passed a ballot initiative to create Healthy School Meals for All. This permanent program enables all school food authorities operating the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program to serve free meals to all students beginning in the 2023-24 school year. Additional components of the program available in the 2024-25 school year include funding to increase wages or provide stipends for front line kitchen staff and incentives to purchase local food.

- Offered multiple training opportunities beginning November 2022
- Passed State Board Rules in June 2023
- Created outreach materials for SFAs to educate school staff and families
- Maintained a detailed Frequently Asked Questions resource
- Made enhancements to the Colorado Nutrition Portal for SFAs to opt in



Promotional video for school staff and families

Direct Certification - Medicaid

In December 2022, the Colorado Department of Education was approved to participate in the Medicaid Direct Certification Demonstration project in partnership with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, this project allows districts to use Medicaid data, in addition to SNAP, TANF and migrant data, to match students through the direct certification portal and offer free or reduced meal benefits to identified students. This program is anticipated to increase school meal access and participation and reduce administrative burden on districts and families. It is estimated to reach an additional 9,000 or more students each year.

Administrative Reviews & Masterclass TA Visits

42

Administrative Reviews completed

41

Masterclass Technical Assistance visits completed

32

Summer Food Service Program Reviews completed



School Nutrition Accomplishments

Funding to Districts

USDA Equipment Grant	\$404,000 45 Sponsors
Local Food Program	\$500,000 31 Sponsors
Local Food for Schools Cooperative Grant	\$869,409
USDA Supply Chain Assistance Funds	\$18,601,641



Blueprint to End Hunger Grant

The School Nutrition team completed a 3 year grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to execute a community informed implementation plan to increase participation and access to child nutrition programs with a focus on collaboration, strengthening systems and equity. During the 2022-23 school year, the team implemented many exciting initiatives:

**Mini Grants:
Meal Quality
Improvements
\$207,780**

**Mini Grants:
Mobile Meal
Counter
\$12,541**

**4 Regional
Meal Quality
Trainings**

**Two Rural
Summits**

**Masterclass
Trainings**

Advisory Council for School Nutrition

The Advisory Council for School Nutrition (ACSN) informs and advises the School Nutrition Unit on the development and implementation of child nutrition programs and serves as a resource for sponsors within specific regions. School Nutrition is grateful for their service.

Traci Berg, Holyoke RE-1J

Danielle Bock, Greely-Evans Weld County 6

Katie Cossette, St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J

Erika Edwards, Jefferson County R-1

Stephanie Harper, Shiloh House

Britton Knickerbocker, Charter Choice Collaborative

Kristen Osborn, Gunnison Watershed RE1J

Jennifer Peifer, Douglas County RE 1

Steffiney Quick, Byers 32J

School Nutrition Accomplishments

Training

School Nutrition provides training opportunities in a variety of ways - live webinars, on demand, and in person. In addition to two in person Rural Summits offered as part of the Blueprint to End Hunger Project, School Nutrition offered multiple professional development sessions during the 2022-23 school year.

Live Webinars

20
trainings

1,350
participants

97% of
Sponsors
Very Satisfied
or Satisfied



Moodle - CDE's Online Learning Platform

348
New Moodle
Users

11 New
Training
Videos

Communication & Outreach

School Nutrition communicates important information and updates to sponsors and other stakeholders in a variety of ways. Two primary means of communication and outreach are The Dish, a bi-weekly e-newsletter, and the School Nutrition website. The Dish provides sponsors with upcoming deadlines, training opportunities and new resources for child nutrition operations. There are currently 1,318 Dish subscribers. School Nutrition launched a new website in January 2023, designed to provide a more user-friendly experience.

School Nutrition has created NSLP and SFSP outreach materials for sponsors to use with families, school staff and community members. Printed posters, banners, yard signs and window clings were made available to all sponsors at no cost. Downloadable outreach materials, available on the website, include menu and postcard templates, social media posts and web banners.



School Nutrition also created an outreach toolkit for Healthy School Meals for All that includes talking points, flyers, social media posts and more to help educate about this new program.

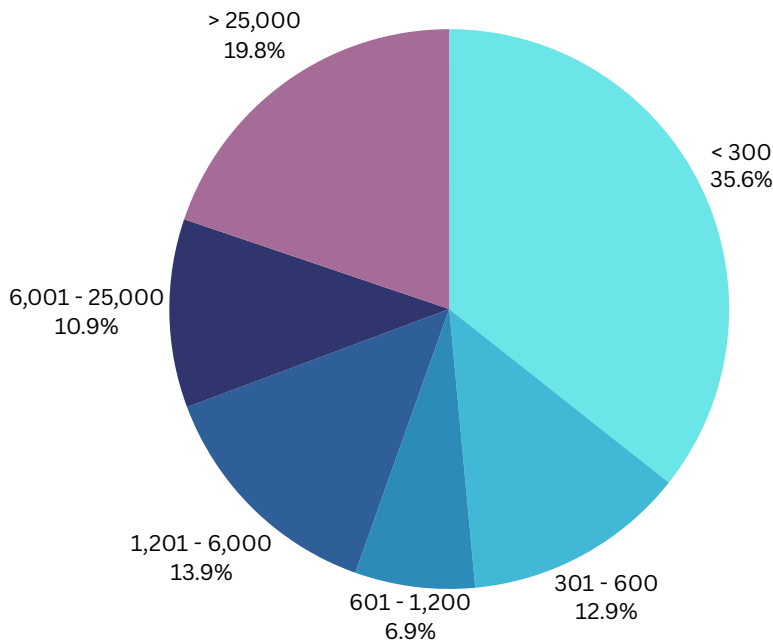


School Nutrition Accomplishments

Needs Assessment

In February 2022, School Nutrition launched a comprehensive needs assessment to gather important feedback from child nutrition professionals across Colorado. Sixty-five percent of respondents were Food Service Directors. Additional respondents included site staff, managers, business officials and support staff. The results have informed School Nutrition's strategic and program planning for the coming years.

Respondents by Student Enrollment



The range of Colorado's diverse school districts were represented, with more than half of respondents from small, rural communities.

Qualitative Feedback

Respondents provided extensive qualitative feedback via comment sections. This data was analyzed and categorized into three primary areas of need:

- Training & Resources
- Improved Processes
- Marketing & Outreach

Key Findings

- 88% of respondents felt their School Nutrition Point of Contact provided effective customer service, while 12% had not used their Point of Contact
- 80% of respondents use The Dish and the website as primary sources of School Nutrition information
- Over 60% of respondents indicated on-demand and live webinars were their preferred modes of training; 40% reported a regional, in person model is preferred

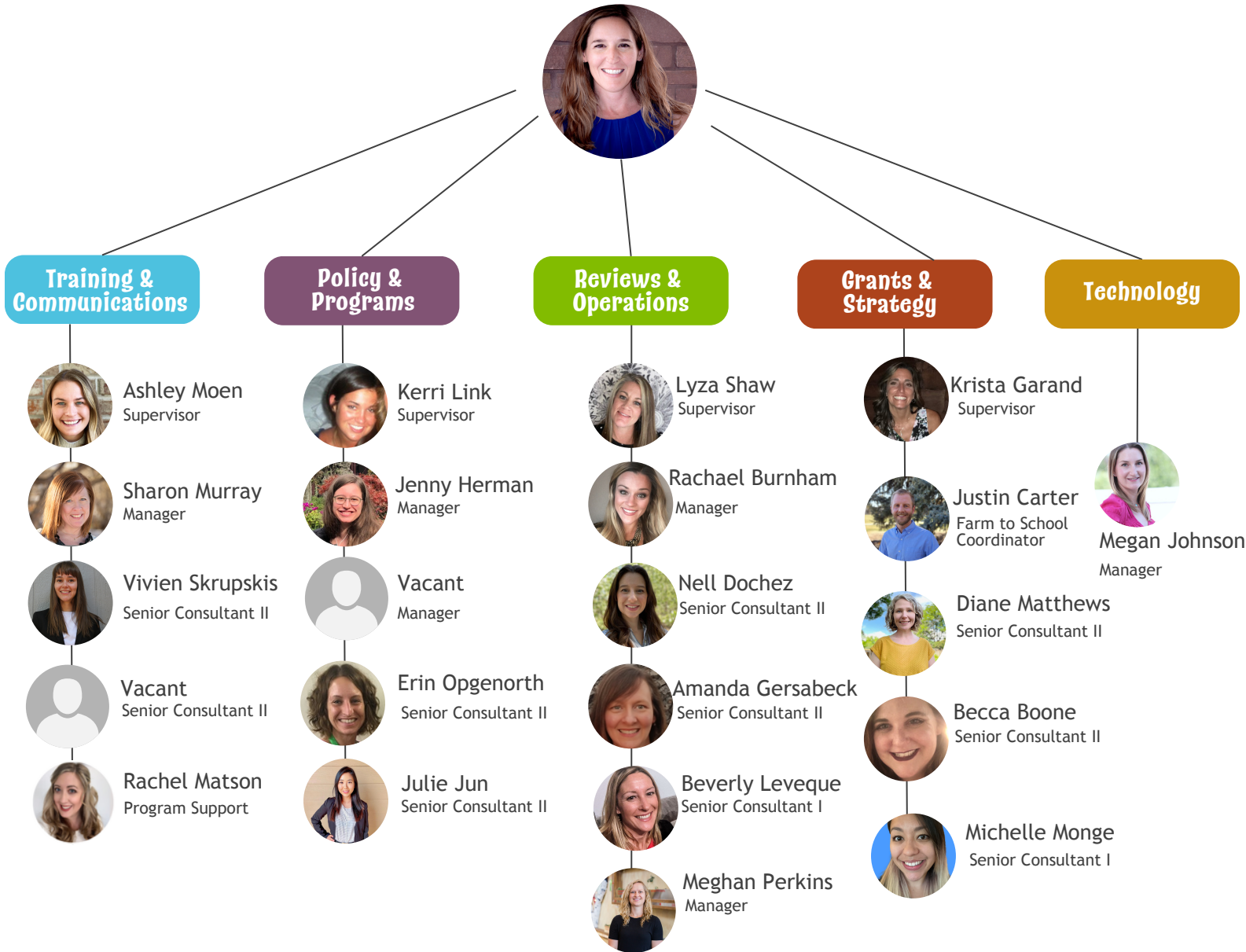
Putting Data into Action

Based on the results, School Nutrition has prioritized multiple future action steps, including:

- Promote existing resources to support training, compliance and marketing needs
- Strengthen ACSN as a resource to sponsors
- Balance on-demand trainings and webinars with regional trainings to meet varied needs across the state
- Strengthen and grow the Point of Contact model
- Continue successful launch of HSMA with resources, training and outreach materials
- Additional support for meal quality and local food initiatives

Meet the School Nutrition Team

Brehan Riley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The School Nutrition Team thanks you for your continued partnership to provide nutritious meals to students that provide the foundation for them to grow, learn, and thrive.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1655 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov.

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