

Healthy School Meals for All

Community and Family Resource



What is the Healthy School Meals for All program?

The Healthy School Meals for All program provides funding for Colorado public school districts to serve free, nutritious meals to all students beginning in school year 2023-24. Beginning in school year 2024-25, participating districts may also receive funds to purchase local food from Colorado farmers and ranchers, and to increase wages or provide stipends to staff who prepare and serve school meals.

What Families Need to Know

- There are no changes to food service operations for the remainder of school year 2022-23 and families should continue to complete school meal benefit applications, as needed, for the remainder of the school year
- Districts have the option to participate in Healthy School Meals for All program
- Districts must participate in the federal National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program in order to participate in the Healthy School Meals for All program
- Under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, districts are reimbursed with federal funding for meals served that meet specific nutrition standards
- To maximize the use of available federal funds, families may still be required to complete meal benefit applications annually
- The state of Colorado will continue to cover the cost for reduced priced meals so families are not responsible for a co-pay
- Healthy School Meals for All will provide free meals to all students by covering the cost of meals provided to students that would otherwise pay full price for a meal

For More Information

Families should contact their district's nutrition service department with questions or for more information.

National School Lunch Program & School Breakfast Program

The NSLP and SBP provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost meals to students each school day. All students can participate, but specific eligibility requirements allow students to receive a free or reduced-price meal based on their family's income or participation in certain federal assistance programs. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals pay for breakfasts or lunches.

What if my district does not opt in?

Districts that choose not to opt into the Healthy School Meals for All program will continue to receive reimbursement from the federal government and the reduced-price co-pay from the state of Colorado for meals served based on a student's eligibility.

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COLORADO
Department of Education
School Nutrition