



## FACT SHEET

# State Funding for Reduced Price Meals

Colorado's Start Smart Program and Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program

The Colorado Department of Education Office of School Nutrition (CDE OSN) reimburses School Food Authorities (SFAs) for meals that are served to eligible students and that are in compliance with state and federal regulations. Federal funding for free, reduced price, and paid meal reimbursements is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Colorado also has additional state funding available to reimburse SFAs for some reduced price meals.

## Start Smart Nutrition Program

### Reimbursement for Reduced Price Breakfast for Grades PK - 12

- Established in 2007 by Colorado Senate Bill 07-059
- Eliminates the \$0.30-co-payment for reduced price breakfast paid by families for students in all grades
- SFAs may not charge reduced price students for breakfast
- Participating students still have a reduced price status, and the SFA is to claim their meals as reduced price
- The CDE OSN claim system reimburses the SFA an additional \$0.30 in state funds for every reduced price breakfast that is claimed

## Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program

### Reimbursement for Reduced Price Lunch for Grades PK - 8

- 2008's Colorado Senate Bill 08-123 eliminated the \$0.40 co-payment for reduced price lunch paid by families for students in grades K, 1, and 2
- 2009's Colorado Senate Bill 09-033 expanded the program to students enrolled in state-subsidized early childhood education programs administered by public schools (i.e., preschool)
- 2014's Colorado Senate Bill 14-1156 expanded the program to students in grades 3, 4, and 5
- 2018's Colorado Senate Bill 18-013 expanded the program to students in grades, 6, 7, and 8
- SFAs may not charge reduced price students the \$.40 co-payment in grades PK-8 for lunch
- Participating students still have a reduced price status, and the SFA is to claim their meals as reduced price
- SFAs must track meals served to reduced price students in grades PK-8 as a subset of meals to be claimed
- SFAs enter a claim in the CDE OSN claim system for the total number of meals served to students in grades PK-8, and state funds reimburse SFAs for these meals

## Claim Reminders

- The claim system can be accessed at [https://cde.cnpus.com/codoe/ Splash.aspx](https://cde.cnpus.com/codoe/Splash.aspx)
- Claims must be filed no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the claim month
- Students covered by these programs are still considered reduced, and their meals must be claimed at the reduced rate
- Preschool students who are not state funded are not eligible for the PK-8 Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program



## Where can I learn more?

- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutritionlineclaimsandservices>
- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriprogramrenewal>

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