

# State Funding for Reduced-Price Meals

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



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) School Nutrition Unit reimburses School Food Authorities (SFAs) for meals served to eligible students and 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). Through the Start Smart Nutrition Program and the Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act, Colorado receives state funding to reimburse SFAs for all reduced-price meals served.

### 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
- This state funding is only eligible for public schools and state funded Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs)/facility schools
- 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 School Nutrition claim system reimburses the SFA an additional \$0.30 in state funds for every reduced-price breakfast claimed

### CHILD NUTRITION SCHOOL LUNCH PROTECTION ACT

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

- 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
- This state funding is only eligible for public schools and state funded Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs)/facility schools
- Expansion occurred from years 2009-2019 through various bills and now covers all grades (PK-12)
- Beginning in SY 2019-2020, SFAs may not charge reduced-price students for lunch
- Participating students still have a reduced-price status, and the SFA is to claim their meals as reduced-price
- The CDE School Nutrition claim system reimburses the SFA an additional \$0.40 in state funds for every reduced-price lunch claimed.

#### Claim Reminders

- The claim system can be accessed at <https://cde.cnpus.com/code/Splash.aspx>
- Claims must be filed no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the claim month
- Reduced-price students must continue to be claimed at the reduced rate
- Preschool students who are not state funded are not eligible for the 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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