

Wisconsin School Day Milk Program: Q & A

1. Q. What is the origin of the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program?

A. This program was established under Section 1741s of the 1987 Wisconsin Act 27 which created s. 115.343 Wisconsin School Day Milk Program and amended by 1991 Wisconsin Act 39 and 2001 Act 16. It is a local assistance program to provide free milk to children in public and private schools, grades pre-kindergarten through five, who meet the National School Lunch Program guidelines **for free or reduced-price lunch**. It is a state-authorized, state-funded program.

2. Q. Are school agencies required by law to participate in the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program?

A. No, program participation is voluntary. If the program is offered, children from households who meet the family size income levels established for free **or** reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program **must** be offered milk free of charge each day in which school is in session. **Note:** Children who receive milk under the federal Special Milk Program for half-day session kindergarten or pre-kindergarten students are not eligible to participate in the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program. The differences between the two programs are compared on the attached sheet.

3. Q. What if the child cannot drink milk?

A. If a child is allergic to milk or has a metabolic disorder or other condition that prohibits him or her from drinking milk, the child must be offered a 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice as a substitute. (In order to claim reimbursement, the substitution must be supported by a written order from a physician.)

4. Q. What kind of milk may be served?

A. Milk must be Wisconsin-produced flavored or unflavored milk, either whole, reduced fat (2% or less), low fat (1% or less), or fat-free (skim). Although schools are required to offer only one type of milk, choices are recommended to encourage student participation. Wisconsin-produced milk means that all or part of the raw milk used by the milk processor was produced in this state.

5. Q. How much milk must be offered?

A. One half-pint per day for children who meet the free **or** reduced-price income guidelines. (Additional milk served cannot be claimed for reimbursement.)

6. Q. What is the reimbursement for the milk or juice served?

A. The beverages served free to children eligible for free **or** reduced-price meals are reimbursed based on the full cost. If the appropriation in any year is insufficient to pay the full cost of beverages served, payments will be prorated among the schools submitting a claim for reimbursement. There are no funds to defray state or local administrative costs.

7. Q. When will the reimbursement payment be made by the DPI?

A. The annual claim is submitted by school agencies on line at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/online.html>. The due date is August 31 following the year for which the claim applies. A lump sum payment is made to the participating school agencies in the following school year (target month is September).

8. Q. What records must be maintained by the school agency?

A. The school agency must maintain separate records to substantiate: (1) the cost of the milk purchased for the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program, (2) the number of half-pints of milk or juice served to children eligible for free **or** reduced-price school meals based on daily

point-of-service counts recorded when students receive the milk, (3) eligibility records based on applications approved in accordance with the established free and reduced-price meal guidelines. Records are to be maintained on file for a period of three years from the year to which they apply.

9. Q. What is the agency's responsibility regarding the anonymity of children receiving free milk?

A. School authorities must keep the information confidential under the same conditions as apply to the National School Lunch Program.

10. Q. Do school agencies have to send out another application to determine eligibility for free milk if they are sending out applications to determine free and reduced-price meal eligibility under the National School Lunch Program?

A. No, children determined eligible for free or reduced-price lunches for the National School Lunch Program would be eligible for free milk. There must be an approved application on file to substantiate eligibility if the milk served is claimed for reimbursement.

11. Q. How does a school agency implement the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program?

A. To participate and to receive reimbursement, the school agency must enter into a contract with the Department of Public Instruction. For additional information or contract materials, please contact Loriann Knpton, School Nutrition Team Consultant at (608) 266-1046 or loriann.knpton@dpi.wi.gov.

Section 115.343 Wisconsin Statutes: Wisconsin School Day Milk Program

115.343 Wisconsin morning milk program. (1) The department shall establish a school day milk program. A school participating in the program shall offer each eligible child a half-pint of Wisconsin-produced whole milk, 2% milk, 1.5% milk, one percent milk, 0.5% milk, skim milk or chocolate milk on each day in which school is in session. If a child is allergic to milk or has metabolic disorders or other conditions that prohibit him or her from drinking milk, the child shall be offered juice as a substitute. Any school that participates in the program is encouraged to consider bids from local milk suppliers. The school shall keep all information related to the identity of the pupils who receive a beverage under the program confidential. In this subsection, "Wisconsin-produced" means that all or part of the raw milk used by the milk processor was produced in this state.

(2) A child who is enrolled in a school in pre-kindergarten class to grade 5 is eligible to receive a beverage specified in sub.(1) If all of the following apply: (a) The child does not receive the beverage through the federal special milk program under 42 USC 1772 (b). (b) The child meets the income eligibility standard for a free or reduced-price lunch in the federal school lunch program under 42 USC 1758 (b). (c) The child does not receive the beverage during the school's breakfast or lunch period.

(3) The department shall pay each participating school the full cost of beverages under sub. (1) Served to children eligible under sub. (2) In the prior school year from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (cp).

(4) If the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (cp) in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid under this section, state aid payments shall be prorated among the schools entitled to such aid.

(5) The department shall maintain a count of the number of children who are served beverages under this section. Section note: 2001 Acts 16 provision would first apply to aid paid to school districts in 2000-03.

Comparison of Milk Programs

Federal Special Milk Program (SMP) (Half-day session students)	Wisconsin School Day Milk Program (WSDMP)(Grades Prek-5)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A federally funded program, to participate is a local decision. 2. Available only to half-day session kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children when the school agency participates in the federal Lunch or Breakfast Program if those half-day children do not have access to the lunch or breakfast program. 3. Reimbursement may be claimed for milk served to half-day session kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children. 4. School authorities may elect one of the following plans: a. Pricing Plan – Milk is sold to students, except, students eligible for free meals (based on family size income criteria) are provided milk free, or b. Nonpricing Plan – Milk is served free to all students or is included in tuition or boarding fees, or c. Pricing Plan – Milk is sold to all students. 5. At least two choices of pasteurized milk meeting state and local standards must be offered from the following list of milk types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fat-free • Low-fat (1%) • Fat-free or low-fat (1%) lactose reduced • Fat-free or low-fat (1%) lactose-free • Fat-free or low-fat (1%) buttermilk • Fat-free or low-fat (1%) acidified <p>A flavored or unflavored milk choice may be offered to meet the variety requirements. For example, the two choices may be chocolate fat-free milk and unflavored fat-free milk. Another acceptable combination to meet the variety requirement is low-fat (1%) unflavored milk and flavored fat-free milk.</p> 6. All milk consumed by the half-day students is reimbursable. If the school authorities opt to provide milk free to students eligible for free meals, it is reimbursed at the net dairy cost. All other milk is reimbursed at the federally established rate. 7. Reimbursements are claimed on-line at: http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/online.html and paid monthly. 8. Anonymity of the children who qualify for the free milk benefit must be protected. 9. A child with a disability that restricts his or her diet must be provided substitutions for milk. The substitution must be supported by a statement signed by a licensed physician to meet the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nondiscrimination regulations (7CFR 15b). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A state-funded program, to participate is a local decision. 2. Available only to children qualified for free or reduced-price meals in grades pre-kindergarten through five. 3. Children participating in the federal Special Milk Program are not eligible (double subsidy not allowed). Milk served during the school's breakfast or lunch periods may not be claimed. 4. Reimbursement may be claimed only for milk served to children from families eligible under the federal family size income levels for free or reduced-price meals. One half pint of milk per school day must be offered. 5. Any type of Wisconsin-produced pasteurized fluid milk meeting state standards may be offered. See next page, Section 115.343 (1) for definition of "Wisconsin-produced." 6. One half-pint of milk per day provided to children from households' eligible for free or reduced-price meals is reimbursed at the full cost of beverages served. If insufficient money has been appropriated to cover all claims, funds are prorated among participating school agencies. 7. Reimbursement payments are paid after the school year in which the milk was served. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One claim for payment is to be filed on-line at: http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/online.html by August 31, following the year for which the claim applies. • A lump sum payment will be made to the participating school agencies in the following school year (target month is September). 8. Anonymity of the children receiving free milk must be protected. 9. If a child is allergic to milk or has metabolic disorders or other conditions which prohibit him or her from drinking milk, the child shall be offered juice as a substitute when supported by a physician's statement.