WISCONSIN SCHOOL NUTRITION

IN A NUTSHELL

The Seamless Summer Option

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) allows eligible school food authorities (SFAs) to provide free summer meals to children 18 and under, and 19-21 receiving special education services, in low-income areas. The SSO can be operated during the traditional summer vacation periods and, for year-round schools, during school vacation periods longer than 10 school days.

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the SSO serving sites must be:

- Located within the attendance area of a school with at least 50% of its children eligible for free and reduced-price meals.
- Located within an eligible census area as determined by the USDA Capacity Builder.

Site Types - Each SSO site must be designated as one of the following site types:

- **Open** – All community children 18 years and under, and children aged 19-21 receiving special education services in school, eat free.
- **Restricted Open** – Sites that meet the open site criteria explained above, but are later restricted for safety, control, or security reasons.
- **Closed Enrolled** – In rare circumstances sites can serve only an identified group of children, age 18 and under, who are participating in a specific program or activity. Closed enrolled sites can only serve enrolled children. If the site has summer school, it cannot be closed enrolled.

Meal Types - Schools and districts may claim up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper. Meals may be claimed on weekends and holidays; however, meals must be served in a congregate setting unless approved for rural non-congregate meal service.

Menu Requirements

Schools that participate in the SSO must follow the traditional USDA School Nutrition Program rules and regulations including NSLP, SBP, and/or ASP meal pattern requirements. Offer vs. Serve (OVS) is allowed but not required. Menu signage, production records, and crediting documentation (Child Nutrition Labels, Product Formulation Statements, and Nutrition Facts labels) must be kept on file.

Point of Service

Since all meals are free, student names and eligibility status are not required. However, meals must be counted at the point of service where it is determined a reimbursable meal is served to each child.

Options for meal counting include:

- Check off or Tally Sheets: Templates of meal count forms can be found on the SSO Webpage. When using these forms, each number should be individually crossed off as each reimbursable meal is provided to a child.
- Computer POS System: Set up the appropriate meal types in a POS system and change the meal price to $0.00.

Financial Management

Claiming – Meals served to community children 18 years and under and children aged 19-21 receiving special education services in school, can be claimed for reimbursement. Adult meals, except for those working directly to provide meals, cannot be claimed for reimbursement and are not an allowable cost to the SSO.

When submitting SSO claims, edit checks are not required for SSO. However, schools must ensure that claims accurately reflect the number of meals served. Submit SSO Claims utilizing the SSO Claiming Manual.

Reimbursement – SSO meals and snacks are reimbursed at the NSLP, SBP, and ASP federal free reimbursement rates.

Additional Meal Service Reminders

Civil Rights - Ensure that requests for meal modifications, due to a documented special dietary need or disability, are accommodated. Display the 'And Justice for All Poster' in a prominent location at all SSO meal service sites.

Outreach - All open sites must advertise the availability of free meals to the community (e.g., posting information on the school's website or social media page, publishing an ad in the local newspaper, posting flyers in the community). All advertisements must contain the USDA Non-Discrimination Statement.

Food Safety - Contact the local health department to inform them of summer serving locations. Ensure that each school's **Food Safety Plan** and **Standard Operating Procedures** reflect SSO operations.

Monitoring - Each summer, SFAs are required to review each SSO site serving lunch and 50% of sites serving breakfast, at least once during its operation. The SFA must review the site's compliance with meal counting, claiming, menu planning, and food safety requirements and complete the SSO Site Review Form.

If you have questions, please contact sso@dpi.wi.gov.