

### Comparison of Programs for the 2021-22 School Year: SSO/ NSLP/ SFSP

The purpose of this comparison chart is to aid School Food Authorities (SFAs) when choosing between the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP). The SSO can reduce paperwork, administrative burden, and allow SFAs to provide children free meals during the 2021-22 school year (SY) at a higher reimbursement rate than the NSLP.

The USDA strongly encourages all SFAs to switch to the SSO for the start of the 2021-2022 SY to ensure students are getting the most nutritious meals possible at the higher rate per COVID 19: Child Nutrition Response [#86](#).

Note: The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is not an option for the academic 2021-22 SY.

| Topic                    | Seamless Summer Option (SSO)   | NSLP/SBP   | SFSP   |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Eligible Sponsors</b> | <p>SFAs with an approved NSLP School Nutrition Contract for the 2021-22 SY, per COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#85</a>.</p> <p>The NSLP contract renewal period for the 2021-22 SY opens on May 18, 2021 and closes June 11, 2021.</p> | <p>SFAs with an approved NSLP School Nutrition Contract for the 2021-22 SY</p> | <p><b>During the 2021-22 SY, the SFSP is only available during the summer months.</b></p> <p>SFAs, local government agencies, private non-profit organizations, universities or colleges, community &amp; faith-based organizations.</p> <p>SFAs are waived of the requirement to demonstrate financial and administrative capability for program operations through September 30, 2021.</p> |

| Topic                         | Seamless Summer Option (SSO)  | NSLP/SBP  | SFSP   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Eligible Participants</b>  | Persons 18 years or younger and persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the State, who are also enrolled in a public or private school program  | Students enrolled in a school of high school grade or younger, determined by the State Agency (SA); including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) | Same as SSO  |
| <b>Times of Operation</b>     | When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school<br><br>Note: WI DPI is waiting for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmation that weekend/non-school day meals will still be allowed in the 2021-22 SY | When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school  | May – September for traditional school calendar areas.<br><br>During unanticipated school closures (i.e., emergencies).<br><br>During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar |
| <b>Meal Service Locations</b> | Schools, RCCIs  | Schools, RCCIs  | Schools, Camps, Churches, Community Centers, Housing Projects, Libraries, Migrant Centers, Parks, Playgrounds, Pools, and Other public sites where children gather   |

| Topic                          | Seamless Summer Option (SSO)   | NSLP/SBP   | SFSP  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Meal Cost for Children</b>  | Meals are free for all children regardless of the SFA's location and/or free or reduced price, and paid percentage, per COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#85</a> .   | Meal cost and reimbursement is based on student's free, reduced-price, and paid eligibility.   | All meals are free, except for camps which are only reimbursed for children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Camp sponsors may, and usually do, provide meals free of charge to all children. |
| <b>Types of Meals</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Snack (AM or PM)</li> <li>• Supper</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Afterschool Snack</li> </ul>  | Same as SSO   |
| <b>Maximum Number of Meals</b> | <p>2 Meals</p> <p>In addition to the two SSO meals, the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) may be administered under the NSLP or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) AtRisk Afterschool component may provide an afterschool snack and/or supper</p> <p>Lunch &amp; supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site under the SSO</p> | There is no maximum; all meal programs may be served   | <p>2 meals for most sites</p> <p>3 meals for migrant sites and camps</p> <p>Lunch &amp; supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site under the SFSP.</p>                                 |
| <b>Meal Pattern</b>            | <p>Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 210.10 standards for NSLP and 7 CFR 220.8 standards for SBP.</p> <p>*Meal pattern and OVS flexibilities may be granted in specific</p>   | <p>Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 210.10 standards for NSLP and 7 CFR 220.8 standards for SBP.</p> <p>*Meal pattern and OVS flexibilities may be granted in specific</p> | Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards for SFSP, though School Food Authorities may substitute NSLP/SBP meal patterns.  |

| Topic                             | Seamless Summer Option (SSO)   | NSLP/SBP  | SFSP   |  |                          |                      |           |          |          |                 |          |          |       |          |          |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
|                                   | <p>circumstances per COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#90</a> and COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#92</a>.</p>  | <p>circumstances per COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#90</a> and COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#92</a>.</p>   |  |  |                          |                      |           |          |          |                 |          |          |       |          |          |
| <p><b>Reimbursement Rates</b></p> | <p>School Year 2021-22</p> <p>Schools operating the SSO will receive reimbursement at the higher SFSP rate for all eligible meals, per COVID 19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#86</a>.</p> | <p>School Year 2021-22</p> <p>All eligible meals provided under NSLP/SBP are reimbursed at applicable federal and state rates based on free, reduced-price, or free eligibility.</p> <p>Extra \$.02 per lunch if 60 percent or more of lunches in second preceding year were free or reduced-price.</p> <p>Additional payments for free or reduced-price breakfasts in severe-need schools.</p> | <p>Calendar Year 2021</p> <p>Maximum Per Meal Reimbursement Rates for All States (not AK or HI)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1440 675 1890 834"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Rural or Self-Prep Sites</th> <th>Other Types of Sites</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Breakfast</td> <td>\$2.4625</td> <td>\$2.4150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lunch or Supper</td> <td>\$4.3175</td> <td>\$4.2500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snack</td> <td>\$1.0200</td> <td>\$0.9975</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Camps are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children.</p> |  | Rural or Self-Prep Sites | Other Types of Sites | Breakfast | \$2.4625 | \$2.4150 | Lunch or Supper | \$4.3175 | \$4.2500 | Snack | \$1.0200 | \$0.9975 |
|                                   | Rural or Self-Prep Sites   | Other Types of Sites  |  |  |                          |                      |           |          |          |                 |          |          |       |          |          |
| Breakfast                         | \$2.4625   | \$2.4150  |  |  |                          |                      |           |          |          |                 |          |          |       |          |          |
| Lunch or Supper                   | \$4.3175   | \$4.2500  |  |  |                          |                      |           |          |          |                 |          |          |       |          |          |
| Snack                             | \$1.0200   | \$0.9975  |  |  |                          |                      |           |          |          |                 |          |          |       |          |          |

| Topic                                      | Seamless Summer Option (SSO)   | NSLP/SBP    | SFSP   |
|--|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Commodities</b>                         | <p>School Year 2021-22</p> <p>Commodities are reimbursed at the applicable federal rate.</p> <p>2020-21 SY Commodity reimbursement was \$.2450 per meal.</p> <p>May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute.</p>  | Same as SSO | <p>Calendar Year 2021</p> <p>1.5 cents per meal for sponsors of self-prep sites or for SFAs with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC).</p> <p>May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute.</p>  |
| <b>Monitoring Required of SFA/Sponsors</b> | <p>SFAs can elect to use COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response <a href="#">#94</a> to waive the onsite monitoring requirement.</p> <p>To ensure continued program integrity, SFAs are encouraged to complete a desk audit of counting, claiming, and meal pattern compliance for each site.</p> | Same as SSO | <p>During normal operation:</p> <p>Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the summer program.</p> <p>Site visits the first week of operation (waived for sites that operated successfully the previous summer).</p> <p>Site review during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed.</p> |

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|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Public Notification</b></p> | <p>A public release is not required but encouraged to inform the public of the availability of free meals under the SSO.</p> <p>SFAs must state in the application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will promote the availability of meals to children in the community.</p> | <p>SFAs must provide the public release to media and other organizations to inform the public of participation in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.</p> <p>A letter or notice with a free/reduced price meal application must be sent to all parents or guardians of enrolled children at the beginning of each school year.</p> | <p>Sponsors must provide the public release to media and other organizations to inform the public of participation in the SFSP.</p> |

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