

Additional Programs

Provisions 1, 2 & 3

Traditionally, school officials annually distribute free and reduced price meal applications to households of all enrolled children and make determinations of eligibility for free and reduced price meals on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). They also count the number of meals served by type (free, reduced price, and paid meals) at the point of service on a daily basis to claim Federal Reimbursement. In an effort to reduce paperwork and other administrative burdens at the local level, Congress incorporated into Section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1759a) three alternative provisions to the traditional requirements for annual determinations of eligibility for free and reduced price school meals daily meals count by type. These alternatives are commonly referred to as Provision 1, Provision 2, and Provision 3.

Alabama Procedures:

SFA's desiring to participate in any of the provisions must follow a three step process.

1. Request permission from the State CNP director,
2. Have an audit to determine eligibility,
3. And establish base year percentages.

Additional 4-year extensions to Provision 2 and Provision 3 must be requested from the State CNP director.

The meal type for Provision 2 on the application/agreement Schedule A cannot be selected until the SFA is approved by the State agency.

Federal Guidelines:

The Federal regulations for Provision 1, 2, and 3 are found in 7 CFR, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools. At the present time, Alabama does not have any schools on Provision 3. For more information visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/prov-1-2-3/Prov2Guidance.pdf>

Provision 1 reduces the application burdens by allowing schools where at least 80 percent of the children enrolled are eligible for free and reduced price meals to certify children eligible for free meals for a 2 year period. Schools continue to take daily meal counts of the number of meals served to children by type as the basis for calculating reimbursement claims.

Provision 2 requires that the school serve meals to participating children at no charge but reduces application burdens to once every 4 years and simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures by allowing a school to receive meals reimbursement based on

claiming percentages. Additional 4-year extensions to Provision 2 are possible when certain conditions are met.

Provision 3 requires that the school serve meals to participating children at no charge but reduces application burdens and meal counting and claiming procedures by allowing a school to receive a comparable level of Federal cash and commodity assistance as the school received in the last year in which free and reduced price eligibility determinations were made, adjusted for enrollment, inflation, and operating days if applicable for a period of up to 4 years. Additional 4-year extensions to Provision 3 are possible when certain conditions are met.

Severe Need Breakfast

Section 201 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 amended section 5 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 addresses severe need. Section 5(d) provides the criteria for determining schools eligibility for severe need assistance under the School Breakfast Program.

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/regulations/Reauthorization_04/2005-11-2.pdf

Schools must have served 40% or more of their lunches to free or reduced price students in the second preceding year in order to receive severe need assistance. Using information gathered from financial information submitted to the State Agency, severe need will be calculated for you. For more information visit the attached link.

<http://www.cnp.alsde.edu/nslp/memos/Severe%20need%20Assistance%20for%20the%20School%20Breakfast%20Program.pdf>

Safety Net

Born during the Great Depression, but growing to maturity during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, food assistance programs have provided a safety net to help U.S. households purchase sufficient food. For economists, a safety net is a policy that ensures a minimum income, consumption, or wage level. Safety nets can be viewed as social insurance to help people through livelihood shocks and stresses, such as those caused by illness, unemployment, or job displacement.

The original intent of [food assistance programs](#) was to increase food access and reduce [food insecurity](#). During the last few decades, food assistance programs, particularly the school meals programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), have also been promoted as a nutrition safety net offering access to essential nutrients and minerals

In the school meals program safety net is defined as additional funding provided to schools that during the last school year served 60% or more of lunches as free or reduced priced.

For more information about federal safety net programs visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsec/FILES/SafetyNet2003.pdf#search=%22safety%20net%20school%20lunch%22>

Area Eligible Snack

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) now offers cash reimbursement to help schools serve snacks to children after their regular school day ends. Afterschool snacks give children a nutritional boost and draw them into supervised activities that are safe, fun and filled with learning opportunities.

In order for a site to participate, the school district must run the NSLP and sponsor or operate the afterschool care program. Additionally the school district must sponsor or operate an afterschool care program which provides children with regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a supervised environment.

In order to be reimbursed, the snacks must contain at least two different components of the following four: a serving of fluid milk; a serving of meat or meat alternate; a serving of vegetable(s) or fruit(s) or full strength vegetable or fruit juice; a serving of whole grain or enriched bread or cereal.

An afterschool care program site is "area eligible" if it is located at a school or in the attendance area of a school where at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals. For example, if a high school with less than 50 percent free or reduced price school enrollment is located in the attendance area of a middle school that has 50 percent or more of the enrolled children eligible for free or reduced price meals, then the afterschool care program located in the high school would be area eligible.

For more information on the Afterschool Snack Program visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Afterschool/default.htm>

Seamless Summer

The Seamless Summer Option combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This option reduces paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for schools to feed children from low-income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods and, for year-round schools, long school vacation periods (generally exceeding 2-3 weeks).

As of September 2006 schools will not be granted a school year extension. Therefore to operate programs outside of the traditional school year, the Seamless Summer Option should be used. A separate application must be submitted for the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

School districts participating in the NSLP or SBP are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option. Once approved through their governing State agency, school districts serve meals free of charge to children, 18 years and under, from low-income areas.

The same NSLP and SBP rules apply for meal service. Meals served are reimbursed at the NSLP and/or SBP “free” rates. Allowable meals may include breakfast, am snack, lunch, pm snack, and supper. Up to two types of meals per day can be reimbursed (three for migrant sites and camps).

The various types of sites allowed to participate in this option include:

- **Open sites:** all children eat free in communities where at least 50% of the children are eligible for free/reduced price school meals.
- **Restricted open sites:** sites that meet the open site criteria, explained above, but are later restricted for safety, control, or security reasons.
- **Closed enrolled sites:** may be in any community for an enrolled group of low-income children and meets the 50% criteria explained above. This excludes academic summer schools.
- **Migrant sites:** serving children of migrant families.
- **Camps:** residential or non-residential camps.

For more information visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Seamless_Summer.htm