

Comparison of Programs SFSP/NSLP/Seamless Option

This is a comparison between the various Child Nutrition summer feeding programs. The purpose of this comparison chart is to inform and encourage more School Food Authorities (SFAs) to provide meals in the summer and other times when school is not in session. Both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) reduce paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for School Food Authorities (SFAs) to feed children in low-income areas during the summer months or during the extended breaks of a year-round school schedule.

Areas where the provisions in the Seamless Summer Option are same as SFSP, rather than NSLP, are highlighted as **Same as SFSP**.

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
Eligible Sponsors	<p>SFAs, Local government agencies, Private non-profit organizations, Universities or Colleges, Community & faith-based organizations</p> <p>SFAs are waived of the requirement to demonstrate financial and administrative capability for program operations</p>	SFAs	SFAs currently administering the NSLP and/or SBP
Times of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) • During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar 	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) • During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar
Meal Service Locations	Schools, Camps, Churches, Community Centers, Housing Projects, Libraries, Migrant Centers, Parks, Playgrounds, Pools, and Other public sites where children gather	Schools , Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs)	Only SFA's administering the NSLP and SBP may participate in the SSO. However, with State agency approval, SFA's may sponsor non-school feeding sites under SSO.

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Meal Cost for Children	All meals are free (Although camps 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)	Meal cost (free/reduced price/paid) for children is based on their income eligibility	Same as SFSP - All meals are free
Establishing Site Eligibility	<p><u>Open sites</u>: In the attendance area of a school or in a geographic area defined by census data where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced price school meals, and open to community</p> <p><u>Enrolled sites</u>: 50 percent or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, determined by approved application, or operate in an eligible area</p> <p><u>Migrant sites</u>: Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers</p> <p><u>Camps</u>: Offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children</p> <p>*As applicable, alternative forms of data may be used to establish site eligibility, including Special provision data (including Community Eligibility) under NSLP/SBP, and Census data</p>	<p><u>Schools</u>: Public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of State's education system</p> <p><u>RCCIs</u>: Public and licensed, non-profit, private</p>	<p>Same as SFSP</p> <p>Note: Academic summer programs cannot participate as closed enrolled sites</p>

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
Type of Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Snack (AM or PM) • Supper <p>Lunch & supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site, except for camp and migrant sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Afterschool Snacks 	Same as SFSP
Maximum Number of Meals	<p>2 meals for most sites</p> <p>3 meals for migrant sites and camps</p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Afterschool Snack</p>	Same as SFSP
Commodities	<p>1.5 cents per meal for sponsors and self-prep sites</p> <p>May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute</p>	<p>23.75 cents per meal (2019-20 school year)</p> <p>May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute</p>	Same as NSLP
Reimbursement Method	<p>SFSP sponsors receive the maximum reimbursement (meals times rates) without regard to their actual or budgeted costs</p> <p>Sponsors may use reimbursements to pay for any allowable program cost</p> <p>Camps are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children</p>	<p>Total meals by type times the free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal</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>If area eligible, all meals reimbursed at NSLP/SBP free rate</p> <p>Extra reimbursements available under NSLP/SBP provided under SSO, as applicable</p> <p>If applications required (camps or closed enrolled in non-eligible area), free and reduced price meals reimbursed at free NSLP/SBP rate; no reimbursement for paid meals at these sites</p>

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Monitoring Required of SFA/Sponsors	<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>	Onsite review of lunch counting and claiming system for each school by Feb. 1 st each year.	Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance at least once during each site's operation.
Monitoring Required of State Agency	Review every 3 years; more frequently based on program size and prior problems identified by the State agency	Administrative reviews every 5 years	Administrative reviews consistent with NSLP/SBP requirements. Must include one SSO site in an administrative review of a School Food Authority participating in the SSO
Meal Pattern	Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards, though School Food Authorities may substitute NSLP/SBP meal patterns.	Must meet requirement for NSLP in 7 CFR 210.10; or SBP in 7 CFR 220.8.	<p>Same as NSLP/SBP*</p> <p>*Additional flexibilities granted in specific circumstances: Refer to policy memo SP-09-2017 "2017 Edition of Questions and Answers for the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option"</p>

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
Eligible Participants	Persons 18 years or younger and persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the State	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the SA; including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an RCCI	Same as NSLP/SBP
Public Notification	Sponsor must send public media notice regarding program and eligibility	SFA must send public media notice regarding program and letter or notice with an application to parents for all children in attendance at the school at the beginning of each school year	Public media notice may be done but is not required SFA must state in application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will promote the availability of meals to children in the community