

National School Lunch Program (NSLP):

Quick Facts

Programs

Food Stamp Program
National School Lunch Program
School Breakfast Program
Summer Food Service Program
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
Special Milk Program
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
Nutrition Assistance Block Grants
Commodity Supplemental Food Program
The Emergency Food Assistance Program
Disaster Assistance

Description

- Provides nutritionally balanced lunches to children each school day in more than 101,000 public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions.
- Reimburses schools for snacks served to children in after-school educational or enrichment programs.
- Reimburses at the following rates (current as of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008): Free Lunches - \$2.47; Reduced-Price Lunches - \$2.07; Paid Lunches - \$0.23; Free Snacks - \$0.68; Reduced-Price Snacks - \$0.34; Paid Snacks - \$0.06.
- Serves lunches that must comply with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and provide one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium and calories.
- Provides USDA commodity foods and cash reimbursement to State agencies for meals served through operating agreements with school districts. The USDA provides additional support through its Team Nutrition initiative, including technical training and assistance to school food service staff, and nutrition education for children.

Background

- The program evolved from Depression-era efforts to assist children in low-income households and was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

Participants

- 30 million students in more than 101,000 schools and residential childcare institutions participated in FY 2006 (daily average).
- Children from households with incomes at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$26,845 for a family of four for school year 2007-2008) are eligible for free meals. Those with higher incomes may be eligible for reduced-price meals.

Budget

- \$7.5 billion in FY 2006.
- \$8.0 billion in FY 2007 (est.)

Contact Information

- For complete information, visit www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch or contact your State agency that administers the NSLP. View Agency listings at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd, select "Contact Us," then "School Meal Programs."