

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
August 2017 - June 2018 (180 school days)

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Lead Agency: United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- ☒ National school feeding policy
- ☒ Nutrition
- ☒ Food safety
- ☒ Agriculture
- ☐ Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... ☒ Yes ☐ No

BUDGET

Total:
USD 18.7 billion (government only)

■ National government*: USD 18.7 billion

■ International donors*: USD 0

**This includes federal cash reimbursement and commodities provided. It does not include administrative funds for states, state expenditures, local expenditures or parental payments, which the federal government does not track regularly but which would add significantly to the total.*

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in the USA have electricity, piped water, clean water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and flush toilets. Most schools have kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES

THIS COUNTRY REPORT IS IN DRAFT FORM

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breakfast | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snacks |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> Take-home rations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional cash transfer |
-
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grains/cereals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roots, tubers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green, leafy vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legumes and nuts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar |

Prohibited food items: Federal regulations prohibit the sale of certain foods, determined to be of minimal nutritional value, as well as fluid milk with fat content greater than one percent milk fat, in the foodservice area during meal periods.

FOOD SOURCES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purchased (domestic) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind (domestic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased (foreign) | <input type="checkbox"/> In-kind (foreign) |

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Handwashing with soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing testing/treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Height measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental cleaning/testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weight measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Menstrual hygiene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deworming treatment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drinking water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye testing/eyeglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Water purification |

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

- ☐ Nutrition
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Food and agriculture
- ☐ Reproductive health
- ☐ Hygiene
- ☐ HIV prevention

☒ = mandatory

OTHER

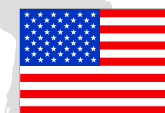
- ☐ School gardens
- ☐ Physical education

Each state and each school decides which of these programs are implemented in their respective local school districts. FNS provides funding to support nutrition education and farm to school programs.



GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity incorporated in 2006. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is being provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture under agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

United States of America

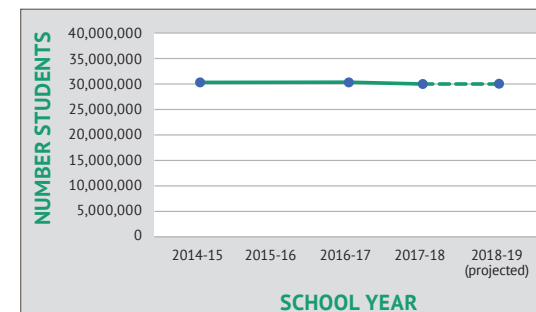


SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

Program	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
National School Lunch Program	30 million		
School Breakfast Program	14.66 million		

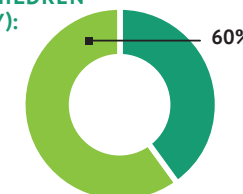
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ONLY



COVERAGE: TOTAL # SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN (PRIMARY & SECONDARY):

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 50 million

Receiving school food: 30 million



NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve the following:

- ☒ **Fortified foods**
- ☐ Bio-fortified foods
- ☐ Micronutrient supplements
- ☒ **Nutritionists involved**
- ☒ **Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition**
- ☒ **Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- ☒ **Objective to reduce obesity**

Food items fortified:

Grains/cereals, dairy products

The micronutrients listed are commonly used—but not federally mandated—for school foods prepared in the commercial pipeline.

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Zinc, Folate, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Vitamin C, Calcium, Selenium, Fluoride, and others

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A number of complementary programs support child nutrition in the USA. The USDA-FNS provides funding to support nutrition education and “Farm-to-School” programs, and hires nutritionists to manage the school meals programs. Nutritional requirements (and prohibitions) are also set for foods served in school feeding programs. States, school districts, and individual schools also decide among various nutrition-related activities or programs to be implemented, and some schools hire nutritionists and dietitians to serve as, for example, food service directors.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- ☒ Cooks and food preparers
- ☒ Transporters
- ☒ Off-site processors
- ☒ Food packagers and handlers
- ☒ Monitoring
- ☒ Food service management
- ☒ Safety and quality inspectors
- ☒ Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- ☐ Women
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Agriculture is a specific component of the National School Lunch Program, and the “Farm-to-School” program has forged stronger links to farmers. Although there was not a dedicated focus on creating jobs for women or other groups, the school meal programs offer equal opportunity for employment. Parents and school faculty are also encouraged to be involved in menu planning, enhancement of the eating environment, and using the school meal programs to teach students about good nutrition practices.

CONTACTS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Agency: United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS)

Website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/child-nutrition-programs>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

School meal programs in the USA promote nutrition and health through the application of nutrition standards and requirements, and by working broadly with nutrition and health stakeholders across the country. In recent years, these programs have expanded dramatically beyond serving school lunches. Thus, participation in the School Breakfast Program has expanded, and increasingly programs include after-school and/or summer feeding activities, particularly in low-income communities. This has been possible due to the longstanding and successful National School Lunch Program that is deeply integrated in schools.

School meal programs also support American agriculture through “Farm-to-School” efforts. These have effectively introduced tasty and fresh foods into school cafeterias, and have also forged important linkages between individual schools and local producers. While the USDA has provided some funding and support for these “Farm-to-School” efforts, the real energy driving these efforts forward has emerged at the local level.

The greatest challenge for school meal programs in the USA centers on the imperative to improve children's food choices and eating behaviors, and make healthy eating a norm.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

- School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Studies (I - IV)
- School Nutrition Program Operations Studies (various years)

Further studies available at:
www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis

RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS)

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks
- Five days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal—Public and non-profit private schools in the U.S. are eligible to participate in the program, though participation is voluntary. The National School Lunch Program reached 74% of low income children.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	✓	✓	✓
Primary school	✓	✓	✓
Secondary school	✓	✓	✓
Total	30 million		

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Green, leafy vegetables	Oil
Fruits	Eggs	Fish
Poultry	Meat	Dairy products*
Legumes and nuts	Roots/tubers	Other vegetables

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

80-85% Purchased (domestic)	15-20% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The above information reflects the federal government's perspective, with some knowledge of how state and local districts implement the National School Lunch Program. Activities and practices do vary by local jurisdiction. This program is considered to be an entitlement program, such that there is no ceiling on the funding.

To limit food waste, children are encouraged to take only what they need.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS)

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Five days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal—Participation in the program is voluntary.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	✓	✓	✓
Primary school	✓	✓	✓
Secondary school	✓	✓	✓
Total	14.66 million		

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Fruits	Dairy products*
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

100% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

In addition to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, USDA also provides funding to serve a meal (often a supper) and/or snacks to children and teens in low-income areas through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component under the Child and Adult Care Food Program. At risk afterschool care centers are places, such as schools, libraries, or community centers, where children and teens participate in an afterschool program. However, data for this program is not disaggregated from the larger Child and Adult Care Food Program, so it is not highlighted as a separate program here.

