

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Autonomous region-level school feeding programs

Lead Agency: Health councils and/or departments of education at the level of autonomous regions

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

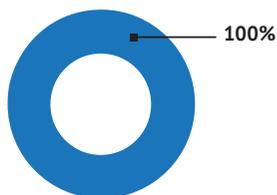
Total: USD Unknown

- Government: USD Unknown*
- International donors**: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response

*100% of funding for school feeding in Spain is from autonomous regional governments. Across five of Spain's 17 autonomous regions (Canarias, Castilla la Mancha, Castilla y León, Extremadura, and Generalitat Valenciana), the combined budget for school feeding in 2020–2021 was USD 154,305,070.

**International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.



INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Spain have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets. Most schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. Across autonomous regions, school meals are alternately prepared on-site (on school grounds), off-site in centralized (not private) kitchens, or off-site in private kitchens in a catering model. School kitchens are typically equipped with refrigeration and gas or electric stoves.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: In most autonomous regions, products high in fat, sugar, or salt are prohibited. In Castilla la Mancha, consumption of fish with high mercury content (such as bluefin tuna, shark, and swordfish) is limited.

FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- In-kind (foreign)

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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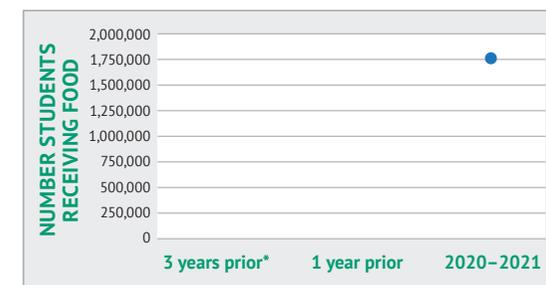
KINGDOM OF Spain



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	1,283,034	1,231,928	448,422
Primary school	2,844,223	2,841,820	835,495
Secondary school	3,028,462	2,724,403	485,477
Total	7,155,719	6,798,151	1,769,394



*No historical information

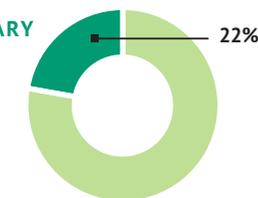
COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 5,872,685

Receiving school food: ■ 1,320,972

Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other



NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved 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/biofortified:

Not applicable

Micronutrients:

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Foods produced in school gardens are consumed by the students. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for school meals, food restrictions on or near school grounds, and education programs in schools, such as food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

- “School Canteens in Spain: From Diagnosis to Proposals for Improvement,” authored in 2018 by Andrés Muñoz Rico.
- “Surveillance Study of Diet, Physical Activity, Child Development and Obesity in Spain 2013,” authored in 2014 by the Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Safety Food and Nutrition in the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality.

RESEARCH NEEDED

An updated analysis of the functioning of school canteens in Spain.

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

**If blank, no response was provided.*

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

- Yes No No response

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

- Yes No No response

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

- Women **Other groups**
 Youth No response

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

- Yes No No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes No There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The approach to school feeding varies across Spain's autonomous regions. In Castilla la Mancha and Castilla y León, school dining rooms are managed by private catering companies, and open tender procedures are followed for contracting companies that specialize in canteens and catering. In Canarias and Castilla la Mancha, the program allocates grants to the families of under-privileged children to pay for school meals. In Generalitat Valenciana, funds are distributed to schools to purchase food, while in Castilla y León, the distribution of resources is completely centralized.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes in school feeding in Spain include the incorporation of local, seasonal, and organic foods (Generalitat Valenciana and Canarias), a shift to more balanced dishes in Castilla y León, the adoption of a national strategy to address childhood obesity, and the inclusion of nutrition education programs in schools. Challenges related to school feeding include the decline in food quality and nutrition that tends to accompany the outsourcing of canteen services, and the concentration of firms in the public/collective catering sector. The “cold line” system of large catering companies consists of the food being pre-prepared/cooked in central kitchens and stored in trays that are cooled. The food is then transported, without breaking the cold chain, to warehouses near where it is to be consumed. Once in the schools, the trays of food are reheated, resulting in a less healthy and appetizing meal than when food is prepared on-site in traditional kitchens.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the 2020–2021 school year, schools in Spain remained open with in-person classes. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in funding for school feeding and an increase in the number of students fed. In some autonomous regions, the crisis prompted a temporary shift in the venue (location) of distributing/receiving food. For example, meals/snacks may have been served at school with fewer children eating together at the same time, or meals may have been made available to be picked up and eaten at home. In some autonomous regions, students' families were provided with electronic payments or vouchers with which to purchase food.

CONTACTS: SPAIN

Agency: Autonomous regions of Spain

Website: Not applicable (information is dispersed across autonomous regions)

AUTONOMOUS REGION-LEVEL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS

Lead implementer(s): Health councils and/or departments of education at the level of autonomous regions

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week throughout the school year

TARGETING:

The format of school feeding programs varies across autonomous regions. In at least some autonomous regions, school meals are targeted toward vulnerable students based on their socio-economic characteristics. Students receive financial assistance depending on their family income bracket, and students' families alternately pay the full amount or receive partial or full subsidies, depending on their income.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	448,422	–	–
Primary school	835,495	–	–
Secondary school	485,477	–	–
Total	1,769,394	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Salt
Roots, tubers	Fish	Sugar
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy milk
Dairy products	Other vegetables	Fruit Juice
Eggs	Fruits	Water
Meat	Oil	

* fortified



FOOD SOURCES:

- Purchased (domestic)
 In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
 In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The characteristics of school feeding programs differ across Spain's autonomous regions. For example, in Canarias, farmers provide many of the food items served in schools. In Catalunya, the School Menu Review Program (PReME) offers educational centers an evaluation of the menus in their school canteens but does not provide food to the centers.

SPECIAL NOTES

Information for this report was derived from six autonomous region-level school feeding programs in the country:

- Canarias (*Ayudas para comedores y desayunos escolares -Gobierno de Canarias*)
- Castilla la Mancha (*Ayudas para comedores escolares curso 2020/21-Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha*)
- Castilla y León (*Prestación del servicio complementario al educativo de comedor escolar en centros docentes públicos de la Consejería de Educación de la Junta de Castilla y León*)
- Catalunya (*Programa de revision de menús escolares – PReME*)
- Extremadura (*Contratación servicio catering para comedores escolares y servicio de aulas matinales en centros docentes de la Comunidad Autónoma de Extremadura*)
- Generalitat Valenciana (*Becas de comedor escolar - Programa de evaluación de oferta alimentaria en los comedores escolares*)

School age population and enrollment figures come from the National Statistics Institute and the Educabase database from the Ministry of Education, Government of Spain. The total number of children receiving food was estimated based on "School canteens in Spain: From diagnosis to proposals for improvement," authored in 2018 by Andrés Muñoz Rico.

The European Union's school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme is not included in this report, although it was operational in Spain during the 2020/2021 school year.