



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
China



School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children

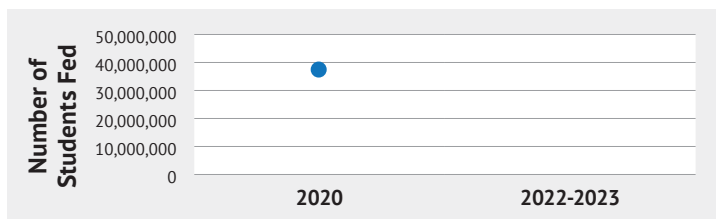
Percent receiving food: Unknown
Percent enrolled, but not receiving food: Unknown

Only Enrolled Primary Students

Percent receiving food: Unknown

School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	51,880,368	48,233,452	0
Primary School	108,219,560	108,409,512	Unknown
Secondary School	100,933,568	94,108,760	Unknown
TOTAL	261,033,504	250,751,712	Unknown

* The number of students fed in the 2022 school year was not reported. The total number reported for the 2020 school year was 37,000,000, including 26,000,000 in primary school and 11,000,000 in secondary school.



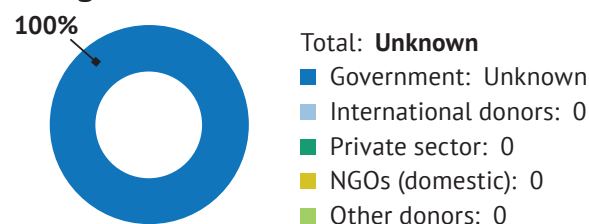
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- National school feeding policy**
- Nutrition
- Health
- Food safety**
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement

The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding**
- National system for monitoring school feeding**

Budget



The budget for the 2022 school year was not reported. The total budget reported for the 2020 school year was USD 5,228,923,500.

- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains**
- Refined/milled grains
- Blended grain-based products**
- Legumes**
- Nuts and seeds
- Eggs**
- Dairy**
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat**
- Processed meat**
- Fish and shellfish
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers**
- White roots and tubers**
- Fruits**
- Dark green leafy vegetables**
- Cruciferous vegetables**
- Other vegetables**
- Deep-fried foods
- Sweets

- Liquid oils**
- Semi-solid and solid fats**
- Salt**
- Dairy milk**
- Yogurt drink**
- 100% fruit juice
- Other fruit drink
- Tea
- Other sugar-sweetened beverages

- ### Food Sources
- Purchased (domestic)**
 - Purchased (foreign)
 - In-kind (domestic)
 - In-kind (foreign)

Special Notes: Population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

School Foods and Beverages (cont'd)

Prohibited food items

Canteens of primary and secondary schools and kindergartens were not allowed to manufacture and sell cold meat, raw food, and decorated cakes, and were not allowed to process high-risk foods such as green beans, wild mushrooms, and sprouted potatoes.

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**

Limitations on food and beverage marketing...

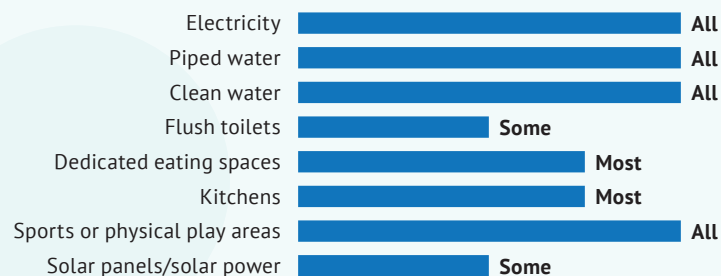
- On school grounds
- To school age children**

Additional Information

Nutritionists paid by local governments and a school feeding program implementing partner were involved in the Nutrition Improvement Plan for Rural Compulsory Education Students program during the 2022-23 school year. Beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were not available to the students at school. Several approaches were used to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including nutritional requirements for food baskets, food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, limiting food and/or beverage marketing to children, food and nutrition education, health education and physical education.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **Unknown**

- Percent paid: Unknown
- Percent women: Unknown

There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...

- Women
- Youth
- Other Groups

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
- School gardens

Complementary Education Programs

- Food and nutrition**
- Agriculture
- Environment/climate/sustainability
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education
- Mental health

Additional Information

Food was purchased for the Nutrition Improvement Plan for Rural Compulsory Education Students program through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures. The private sector was engaged in food trading, food processing, and transport.

Environmental Sustainability

Targeted climate-friendly foods

- Yes No **No response**

Steps taken to limit food waste

- Sealed food storage
 Fumigation/pest control in storage area
 Use of hermetic bags or larger hermetic storage system
 Routine testing/monitoring of dry food storage
 Use of nearly-expired food
 Use of usable but “imperfect” commodities or produce
 Campaign to reduce how much food students throw away

Steps taken to limit package waste

- Re-use of bags/containers
 Recycling
 Use of compostable materials
 Use of “bulk serve” containers
 Prohibiting specific types of packaging

Additional Information

China has adopted a rigorous approach to economizing and reducing food waste. Efforts were made to minimize the distance between food production and schools by increasing local procurement, production, and processing capacity.

Emergencies

Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies

- Yes **No**

Strategies to address the impact of emergencies

- Seek alternative food sources or suppliers
 Changes in numbers of students fed
 Negotiate better prices with existing suppliers
 Establish alternative supply routes or transportation methods
 Source different or alternative food
 Release of food reserves
 Increase funding or budget allocation for school feeding
 Collaborate with local producers or suppliers to reduce dependence on global supply chains
 Changes in delivery method
 Changes in feeding modality
 Changes in feeding frequency
 No particular strategy was used

Additional Information

China did not experience any emergencies during the 2022-2023 school year, and there were no interruptions to school meal activities.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

In the 2022-23 school year, funding was considered adequate to achieve the program targets.

Challenges

No challenges reported.

Nutrition improvement plan for rural compulsory education students

(农村义务教育学生营养改善计划)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education
- The program was managed with both centralized and decentralized decision-making (Semi-decentralized).
- Individual schools procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	Unknown	–	–
Secondary School	Unknown	–	–
TOTAL	Unknown	–	–

Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Blended grain-based products
- ✓ Legumes
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Dairy
- ✓ Red meat
- ✓ Processed meat
- ✓ Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- ✓ White roots and tubers
- ✓ Fruits
- ✓ Dark green leafy vegetables
- ✓ Cruciferous vegetables
- ✓ Other vegetables
- ✓ Liquid oils
- ✓ Semi-solid and solid fats
- ✓ Salt
- ✓ Dairy milk
- ✓ Yogurt drink

Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding

- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- ✓ Local food sourcing
- Small-scale farmers involved by selling directly (or through their farmer organization) to the program or the schools
- Additional support provided to small-scale farmers
- Country had a law/policy/standard related to small-scale farmers and school feeding programs
- Preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies in tendering procedures
- ✓ Effort is made to reduce food miles

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
- During the school year

Targeting

- Grades/age levels, school type (public schools), rural compulsory education stage

Food Sources

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

Additional Information

Large-scale school feeding was first introduced in China in November 2011 with the launch of the Nutrition Improvement Plan for Rural Compulsory Education Students. This initiative provided lunch to primary and secondary students, particularly those in deprived rural areas who were enrolled in compulsory education (elementary and junior high school). By 2020, the program covered approximately 37 million students. The Food Safety Committee of the State Council acts as the national inter-sectoral coordination body for school feeding. Families contribute to the program by paying a portion of the cost.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs® collects data from government sources and is funded, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Contact info@gcnf.org for more information.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, China. <https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>