

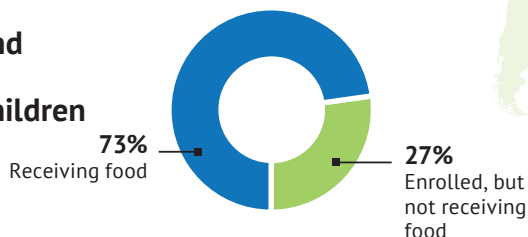


Japan

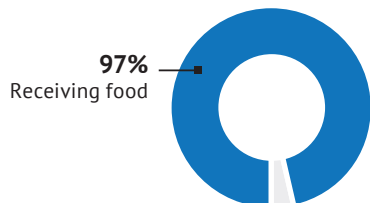


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	2,831,270	2,863,818	0
Primary School	6,176,733	6,440,317	6,240,207
Secondary School	6,510,385	6,786,029	3,018,494
TOTAL	15,518,388	16,090,164	9,258,701*

*The numbers of students fed refers to fiscal year 2021, as numbers for 2022 were not available. The number of secondary students fed is inclusive of 17,904 nighttime high school students. In addition, 135,222 special needs students that received school food were distributed across the school levels.



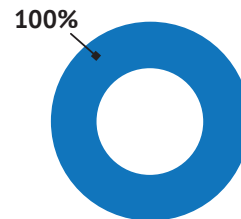
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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



- Total: **Unknown**
- Government: Unknown
 - International donors: 0
 - Private sector: 0
 - NGOs (domestic): 0
 - Other donors: 0

The cost of ingredients is often covered by students' guardians.

- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

No information provided on food items served. There are "School Lunch Implementation Standards" for the nutritional value of school lunches and other school lunch-related matters.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whole grains | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and shellfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid oils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refined/milled grains | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep orange vegetables and tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-solid and solid fats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blended grain-based products | <input type="checkbox"/> White roots and tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts and seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark green leafy vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cruciferous vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> 100% fruit juice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Other fruit drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry and game meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep-fried foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweets | <input type="checkbox"/> Other sugar-sweetened beverages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Processed meat | | |

Prohibited food items

None

Food Sources

As school meals are implemented by local governments, and the procurement and selection of ingredients are carried out by the implementers, the national government does not have information on food sources.

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

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 the national, regional, and local governments—were involved the School Lunch Program in Japan. In total, there are 6,843 nutrition teachers and 4,501 additional school nutrition staff engaged with the School Lunch Program. School food was alternately prepared on-site (on school grounds), off-site in centralized (not private) kitchens, and off-site in private facilities (i.e., by caterers). Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity included the provision of food and nutrition education. Among the complementary programs that were paired with the School Lunch Program, schools in Japan conduct an examination of children's nutritional status and physical status, and check for various diseases and health abnormalities.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...

Electricity	No response
Piped water	No response
Clean water	No response
Flush toilets	No response
Dedicated eating spaces	No response
Kitchens	No response
Sports or physical play areas	No response
Solar panels/solar power	No response

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

No information provided.

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

No information provided.

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

In the 2022-2023 school year, The school meal program in Japan was affected by extreme food price inflation. This prompted an Increase in funding/budget allocation for the program. In addition, in order to ease the burden on parents affected by rising prices, temporary grants were made available to cover school lunch fees.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

In Japan, based on the School Lunch Act and other relevant laws and regulations, efforts are being made to promote school lunches and food education. This includes the promotion of nutritionally balanced school lunches, the greater use of local agricultural products in school lunches, and incorporation of food education in the school curriculum.

Challenges

No challenges reported.

School Lunch Program

(学校給食)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Local governments
- Managed by the local government and school corporations.
- Who procured the food: No response

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	—	—
Primary School	6,240,207	—	—
Secondary School	3,018,494	—	—
TOTAL	9,258,701*	—	—

*The numbers of students fed refers to fiscal year 2021, as numbers for 2022 were not available. The number of secondary students fed is inclusive of 17,904 nighttime high school students. In addition, 135,222 special needs students that received school food were distributed across the school levels.

Foods and Beverages

No information provided on food items served. There are “School Lunch Implementation Standards” for the nutritional value of school lunches and other school lunch-related matters.

Dairy milk

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 nutritional and/or health goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Universal

Food Sources

As school meals are implemented by local governments, and the procurement and selection of ingredients are carried out by the implementers, the national government does not have information on food sources.

Additional Information

School feeding began in Japan in 1932. Objectives of the School Lunch Program include the following:

1. To maintain and promote health through the intake of appropriate nutrition.
2. To deepen a proper understanding of food in daily life, cultivate the judgment necessary to maintain a healthy diet, and foster desirable eating habits.
3. To enrich school life and foster a cheerful sociable and cooperative spirit.
4. To deepen an understanding that diet is based on the blessings of nature, and to foster a spirit of respect for life and nature, as well as an attitude that contributes to environmental conservation.
5. To deepen an understanding that diet is supported by the various activities of people involved with food, and to foster an attitude that values hard work.
6. To deepen an understanding of the excellent traditional food culture of Japan and each of Japan's regions.
7. To deepen an understanding of food production, distribution, and consumption.

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, Japan.

<https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>