

A stack of colorful lunch trays in various colors including blue, yellow, green, orange, and red, arranged in a spiral pattern. A white paper cutout of the state of Montana is placed over the center of the stack.

MONTANA
SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

2018

Fueling Success in the School Day



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

Photo: Target Range Elementary Lunch Trays



— **45.3%** —

OF MONTANA STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE
OR REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS



MT SCHOOLS SERVED

20.6 MILLION

MEALS IN 2018



92.3%

of schools that offer lunch also

OFFER BREAKFAST



158

SCHOOLS OFFER FREE MEALS
TO ALL STUDENTS THROUGH
THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY
PROVISION (CEP)



\$48,139,282

REIMBURSEMENT TO MONTANA
SCHOOLS

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) School Nutrition Programs administers eight U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Afterschool Snack Program
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- USDA Food Distribution Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Montana Team Nutrition Program

School Nutrition Programs reimburses schools, distributes USDA Foods for meals served to children, teaches workshops for school personnel, ensures that schools implement federal regulations, and provides nutrition education for students.

Sponsors include: public and private schools; government agencies; and nonprofit residential child care institutions, organizations, and camps.

VISION

To help every student succeed through equal access to nutritious and sustainable sources of food.

MISSION

To ensure that schools serve healthy meals, promote active lifestyles, and provide nutrition education through the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs.

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PRIORITIES

technology

integrity

access

safety

healthy communities

support



—technology—

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND TRAINING (ART) GRANT

\$1,497,189.20

- Deployed new integrated Child Nutrition Programs management system (the Montana Agreement and Payment System, or MAPS) to increase overall program integrity.
- MAPS provides enhanced security, an electronic monitoring system, online sponsor applications, electronic food distribution management, CEP determinations, and access to data to accurately complete required Federal reports.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT (TIG)

\$1,730,656

- Proposed projects allowing School Nutrition Programs to support successful operation of programs at the state and local level.
- Improved connectivity for Specialists while in the field through the use of mobile hot spots to ensure compliance visits could be successfully conducted. (Complete)
- Update Direct Certification Application to ensure that children eligible for SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, and foster care, or who are classified as homeless, migrant, or runaway, continue to receive free meals at school through a streamlined process. (Expected completion target of June 2019)
- Enhance menu planning opportunities for school districts through updated software system, *Cartewheel*. (Expected initial rollout in March 2019)
- Improve State Agency procurement monitoring process through electronic Procurement Review software. (Expected implementation May 2019)
- Streamline reporting through MAPS to ensure accurate data for Federal reporting.

— integrity —

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS

Administrative Reviews ensure school districts operate programs according to the rules set by Congress. School Nutrition Programs completed **92** Administrative Reviews in 2018.

All school districts are reviewed *every three years* to ensure program integrity.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM REVIEWS

Summer Food Service Program Reviews ensure school districts operate programs according to the rules set by Congress. **27** Summer Food Service Program Reviews were completed in Summer 2018.

All sponsors are reviewed *every three years* to ensure program integrity.

DIRECT CERTIFICATION GRANT

The Direct Certification Application (DCA) system is a software interface that matches students enrolled in school with children receiving assistance from state agencies.

57.6% of students approved for free and reduced-price meals at school qualify based on Direct Certification.

VERIFICATION OF FREE/REDUCED MEAL BENEFITS

Free and reduced-price applications require annual verification of 3 percent of applications submitted. In 2018, **252** Local Education Agencies (LEAs) completed verification.

— access —

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL BENEFITS

In Montana, **69,405** out of a total **152,215** students qualified for Free and Reduced-Price Meals.

DIRECT CERTIFICATION FOR FREE MEALS

Direct Certification is the process that identifies students already enrolled in other assistance programs (SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, Foster, Homeless, Migrant, Runaway).

94% of school-aged students receiving SNAP benefits were directly certified for free school meals without the need for a household free/reduced application.

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

Schools and districts with a high rate of Direct Certification are eligible to operate Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides free meals to all students. Schools that elect to operate CEP are reimbursed for meals served based on their rates of Direct Certification.

98% of schools eligible for CEP adopted the provision.

CIVIL RIGHTS IN SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

School nutrition programs are open to all children in participating schools. School districts notify the public that they offer meals at school on an annual basis, and personnel complete civil rights training each year.

— safety —

FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTIONS

Districts that serve food are inspected by local sanitarians. USDA requests that school foodservice establishments receive two inspections each year.

10 report three inspections • 370 report two inspections
316 report one inspection • 58 report no inspection

USDA FOODS

School nutrition programs use foods sourced from American agricultural producers.

BUY AMERICAN PROVISION

Districts must purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. Solicitations, contracts, and product specifications must include Buy American language.

LOCAL MEAT USING USDA/STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY

Districts may serve meat from local farmers and ranchers as long as it has been processed at a state or federally-inspected facility.

HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) PLANS

Districts are required to implement a food safety program for the preparation and service of school meals.

SERVSAFE CERTIFICATION

Food service directors are certified food service protection managers. Each director attends an eight-hour food safety training and completes a nationally-recognized food safety exam every five years.

—community health—

FARM TO SCHOOL

54.6% of Montana school districts participate in Farm to School activities.

EQUIPMENT GRANTS

11 capital equipment grants of **\$5,000 each** were provided to local schools by the OPI.

MEAL REIMBURSEMENT

\$48,139,282 was reimbursed for food served in Montana schools.

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Federal Child Nutrition Program funds support at least one food service job in **255** Montana communities.

School food service directors purchase foods from local grocery stores and local producers.

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICIES

All school districts are required by law to have an active School Wellness Policy that is assessed for effectiveness once every three years. The policy gives the local population an opportunity to shape the school health atmosphere. School staff, administration, school board, parents, food service staff, and students should all be involved in the development of the policy.

MEAL PATTERNS

100% of Montana school districts meet the menu pattern set by the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.

All Montana students have access to more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOLS

Smart Snacks in Schools regulations ensure that foods sold during the school day meet healthy guidelines.

— support —

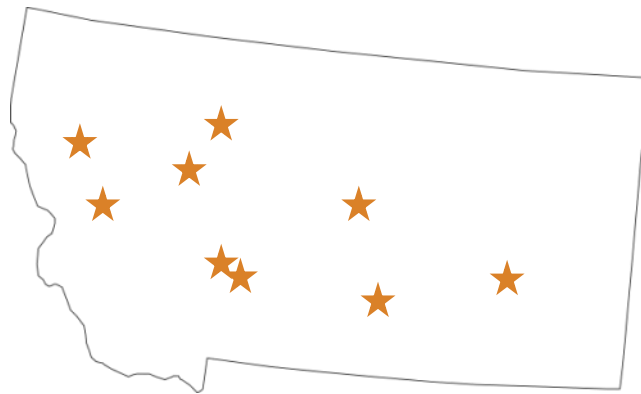
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

91 hours of continuing education provided by MT Team Nutrition Program

71 hours of continuing education provided by OPI School Nutrition Programs

REGIONAL OPI AND TEAM NUTRITION STAFF

OPI School Nutrition Programs and Team Nutrition have staff located around the state to better serve Montana's rural areas.



PROGRAMS

| | DISTRICTS/ SPONSORS | SITES |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| School Breakfast Program | 231 | 734 |
| National School Lunch Program | 255 | 804 |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | 122 | 179 |
| Afterschool Snack Program | 95 | 239 |
| Special Milk Program | 9 | 13 |
| USDA Foods | 255 | — |
| Summer Food Service Program | 91 | 256 |
| MT Team Nutrition | ALL | ALL |

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The School Breakfast Program provides reimbursement for breakfasts served to students during the school day.



6.2 MILLION
BREAKFASTS SERVED

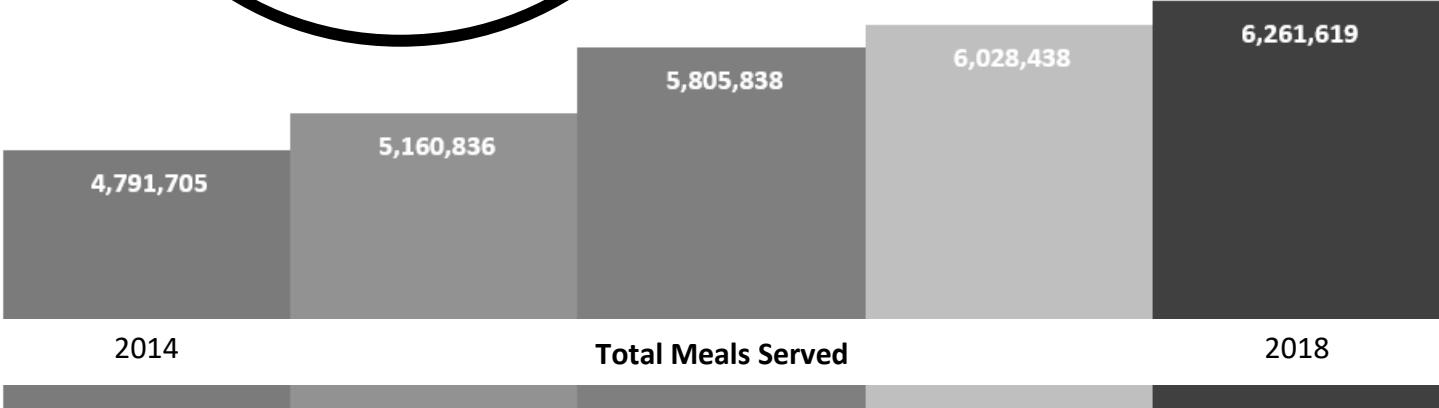
Conrad, MT Grab&Go Breakfast Bags

**Reimbursement Rates
SY 17-18**

| | Severe Need | Regular |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| Free | \$2.09 | \$1.75 |
| Reduced | \$1.79 | \$1.45 |
| Paid | \$0.30 | \$0.30 |

92.3%

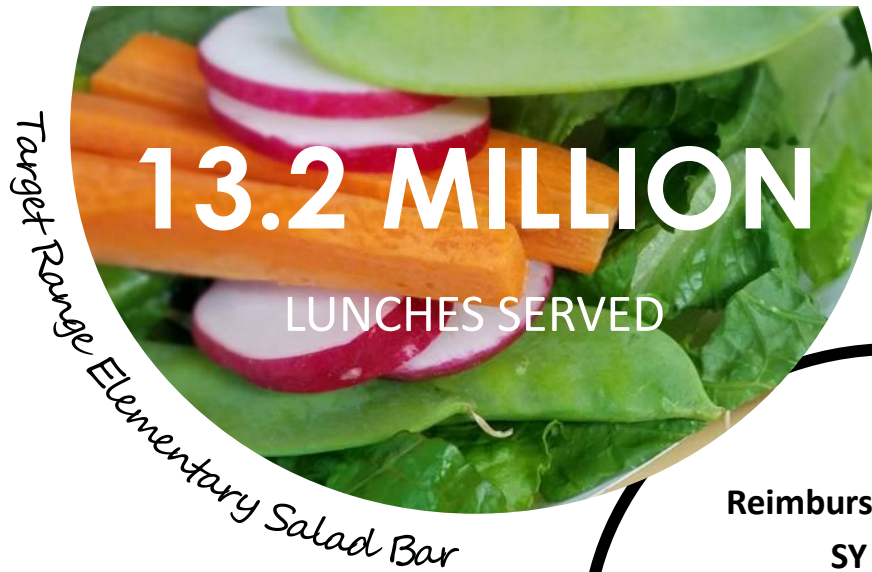
of schools that offer lunch also
OFFER BREAKFAST



34,786
STUDENTS EAT BREAKFAST AT SCHOOL EACH DAY

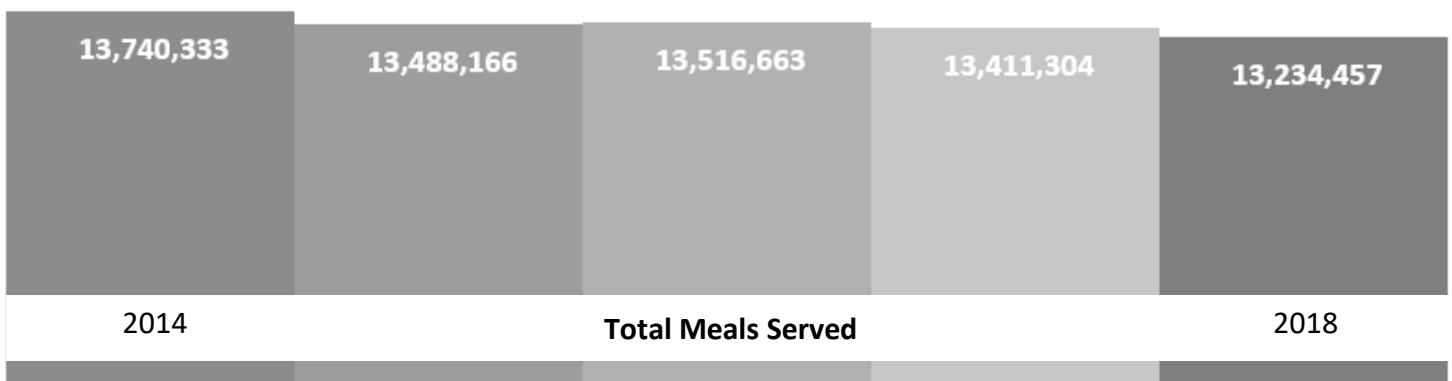
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The National School Lunch Program provides reimbursement for lunches served to students during the school day.



| Reimbursement Rates SY 17-18 | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| | Severe Need | Regular |
| Free | \$3.31 | \$3.29 |
| Reduced | \$2.91 | \$2.89 |
| Paid | \$0.39 | \$0.37 |

45.3%
of MT students qualify for
FREE/REDUCED meals



73,524

STUDENTS EACH LUNCH AT SCHOOL EACH DAY

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides funds to elementary schools for fresh fruit and vegetable snacks during the school day.



\$2 MILLION

TOTAL FUNDS TO SCHOOLS

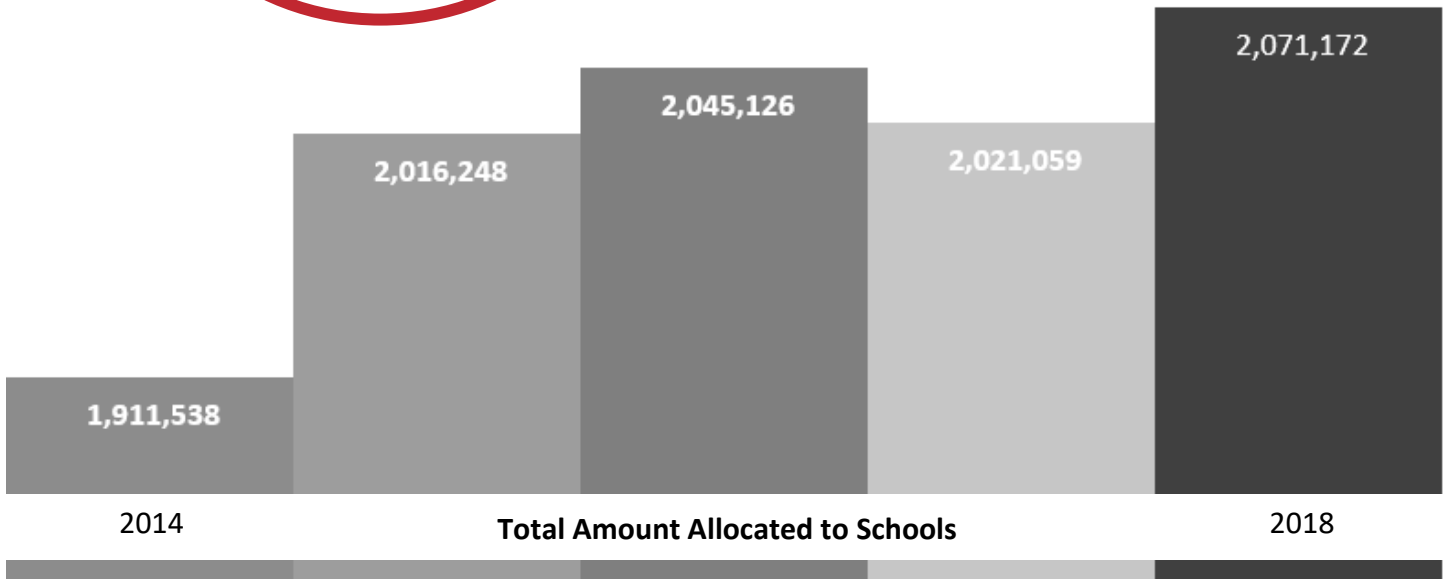
\$50.40

ALLOTMENT PER STUDENT

90%

of eligible schools in poverty areas

PARTICIPATE IN FFVP



35,784

STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO FFVP

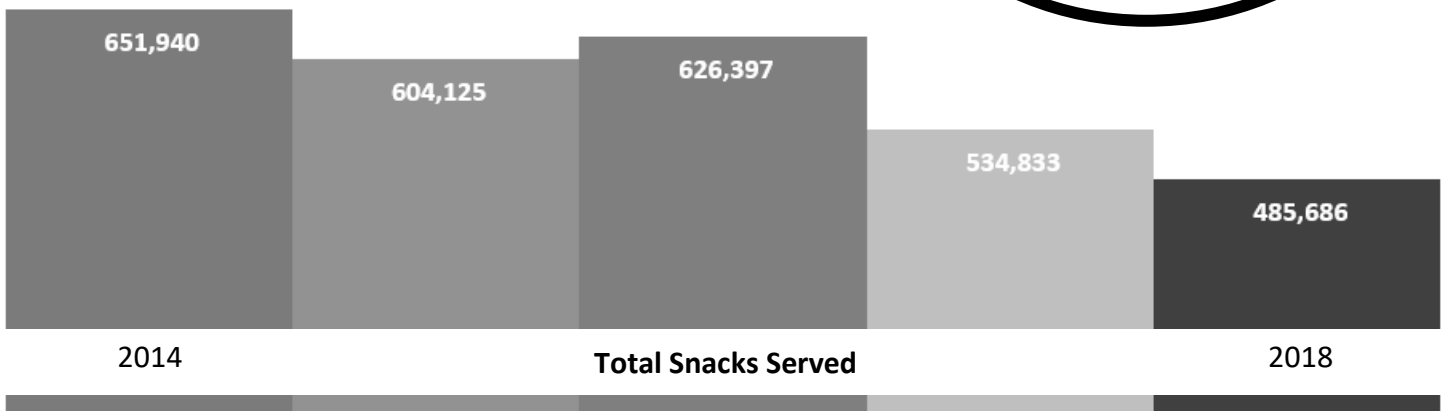
AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM

The Afterschool Snack Program provides snacks to students in education and enrichment activities after school.



**Reimbursement Rates
SY 17-18**

| | Area-Eligible | Non-Area Eligible |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| Free | \$0.88 | \$0.88 |
| Reduced | — | \$0.44 |
| Paid | — | \$0.08 |



2,698
STUDENTS EAT A SNACK AFTER SCHOOL EACH DAY

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

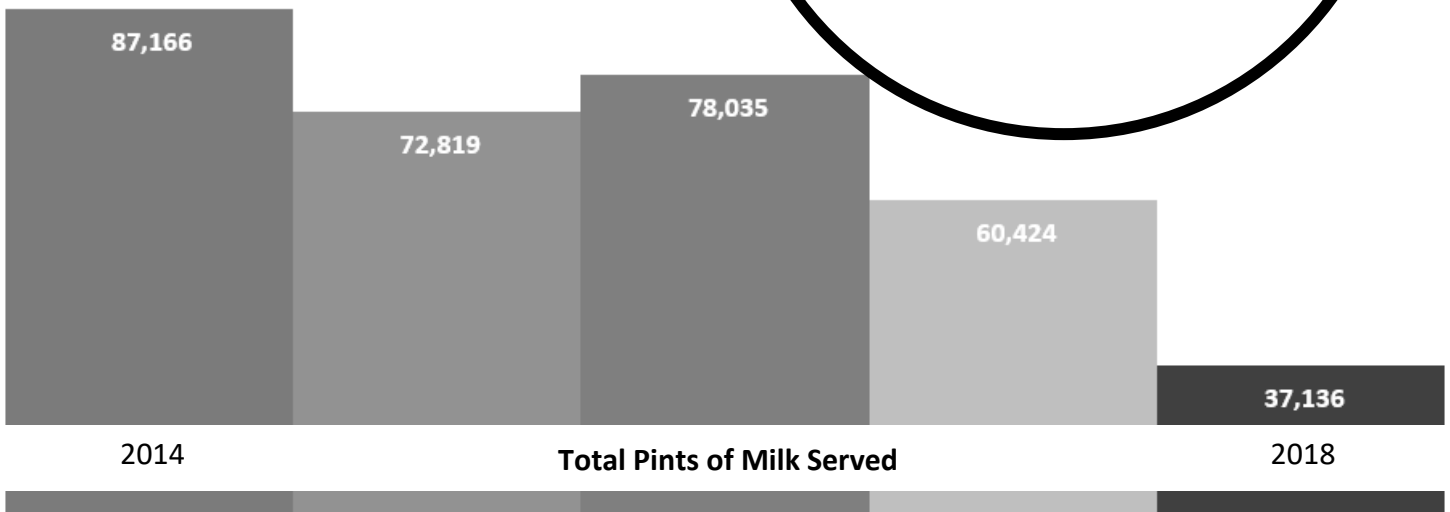
The Special Milk Program provides reimbursement for milk served at schools that do not offer the National School Lunch Program or Summer Food Service Program.



The Special Milk Program operates at schools/sponsors that do NOT offer breakfast or lunch to students.

Reimbursement Rates SY 17-18

| | All Milk | Paid Milk | Free Milk |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Pricing w/o Free | \$0.2075 | N/A | N/A |
| Pricing w/ Free | N/A | \$0.2075 | Average cost per 1/2 pint of milk |
| Non-Pricing | \$0.2075 | N/A | N/A |



206

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM EACH DAY

USDA FOODS and DOD FRESH

The USDA provides schools with USDA Foods and Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for use in preparing school meals.



\$4.4 MILLION

ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS

Veggie Cups @ Great Falls Public Schools

Did You Know....

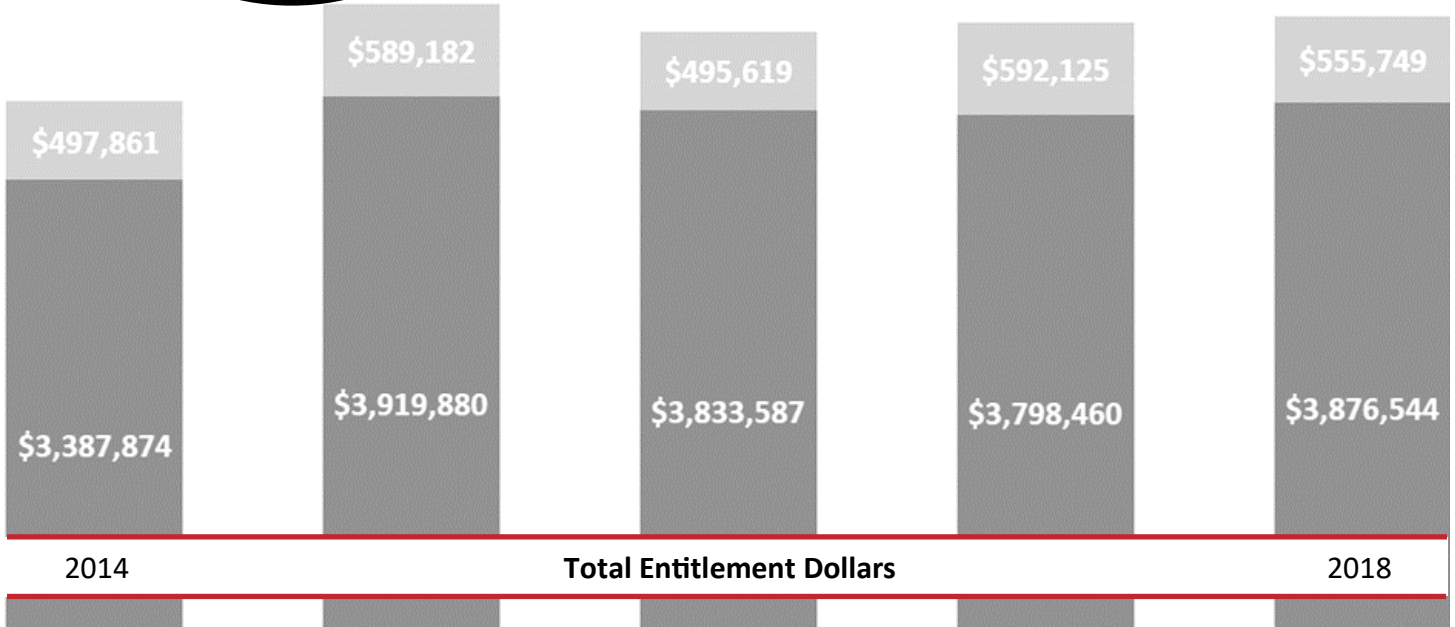
On an average day, USDA Foods make up between 15 and 20 percent of the total products served as part of a school lunch.

100%

of foods offered through
USDA Foods/DOD Fresh are

AMERICAN GROWN

■ USDA Foods ■ DOD Fresh

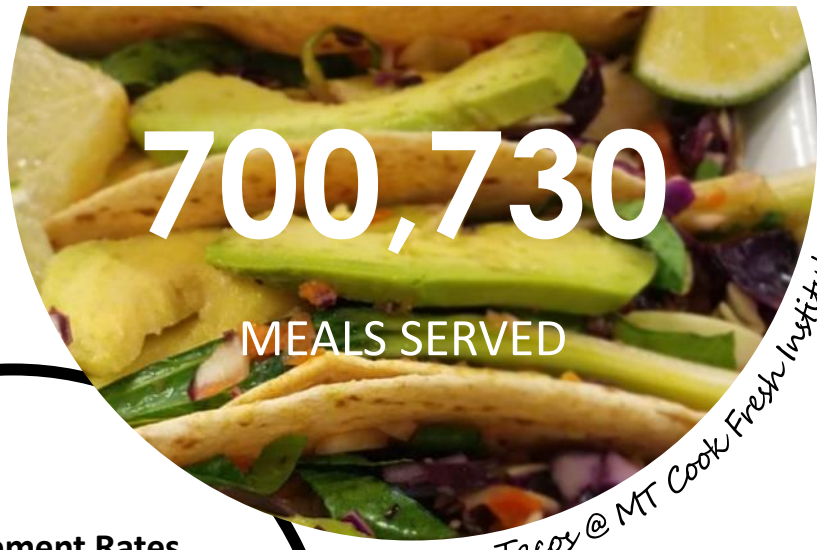


33

CENTS OF ENTITLEMENT PER MEAL SERVED

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to all kids, age 18 and under, during the summer months. No application needed—all kids have to do is show up!

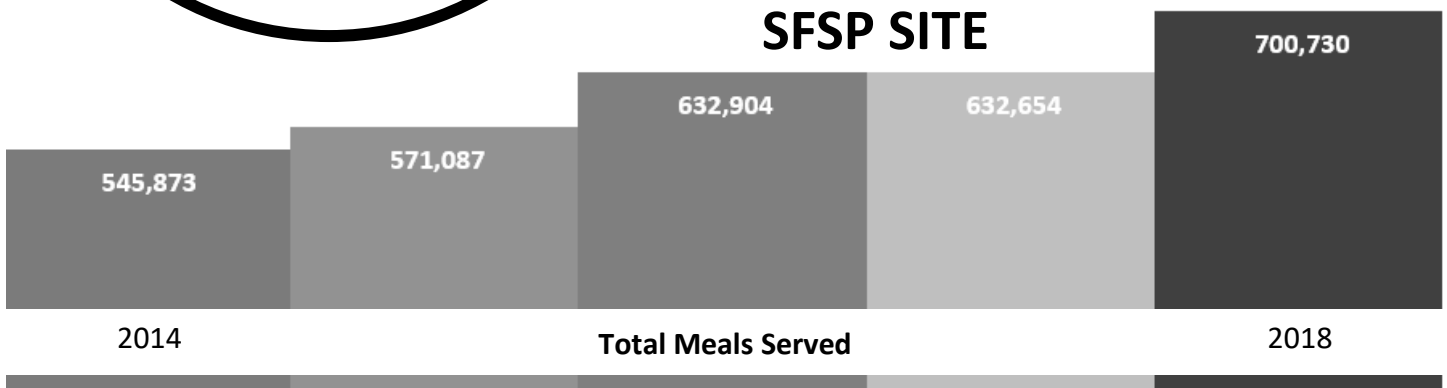


- MT Summer Meal Sites Located At:
- SCHOOLS**
 - PARKS**
 - PUBLIC POOLS**
 - LIBRARIES**
 - HOUSING COMPLEXES**
 - COMMUNITY CENTERS**

Reimbursement Rates Summer 2018

| | Self-Prep | Vended |
|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Breakfast | \$2.2325 | \$2.1900 |
| Lunch/Supper | \$3.9225 | \$3.8575 |
| Snack | \$0.9300 | \$0.9100 |

71%
of MT counties have at least one
SFSP SITE



57
NEW SITES OPERATING IN 2018

MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION

The Montana Team Nutrition Program provides professional development training opportunities and technical assistance on student wellness.

Montana Team Nutrition Provided:

- ◆ **Two** regional [Montana Cook Fresh](#) workshops providing culinary training with a focus on using fresh, whole foods.
- ◆ **Six** [Smarter Lunchroom](#) workshops designed to teach participants the benefits of using behavioral economics which are low cost, no cost techniques for the school cafeteria to help nudge students to make healthier choices.
- ◆ **Seven** regional Serving Up Success: Standardized Recipes workshops to teach foodservice professionals the benefits and steps to developing standardized recipes.
- ◆ **Twenty** nutrition education, [Harvest of the Month](#) or farm to school workshops to school staff or community health partners in teaching student about food and nutrition.
- ◆ **Seventeen** district, regional or state level presentations on menu planning, food management topics, food safety, or personal nutrition.
- ◆ **Ten** regional or state level presentations including three Montana School Wellness in Action workshops on the USDA's school wellness policy and best practices for creating a healthy school nutrition environment. Revised and promoted our [Montana Recess before Lunch: Optimizing school schedules to support learning Guide](#). 40% of Montana elementary schools implemented a recess before lunch schedule during the 2017-2018 school year.
- ◆ **Seven** presentations or poster displays at national conference or via webinars to nutrition educators or foodservice professionals from around the nation on topics like behavioral economics, school wellness, farm to school including the [Montana Beef to School Initiative](#).
- ◆ Assisted three schools from two school districts (Target Range and Whitefish High School) with receiving Healthy Schools national recognition by receiving a [USDA HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchroom award](#).



91

HOURS OF CONTINUING
EDUCATION

2,033

SCHOOL /CHILDCARE STAFF OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS REACHED

(through Team Nutrition training and technical assistance)

Montana Farm to School focuses on local procurement, garden-based nutrition education, and community connections through agricultural partners.



135

SCHOOLS & AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS PARTICIPATED

In collaboration with multiple partners, Montana Team Nutrition launched the [Harvest of the Month \(HOM\) Program](#), which is a free year-long nutrition education and promotion program featuring one Montana food a month.

- **24,480** students from across Montana participated in HOM through monthly taste tests, educational activities, and enjoying delicious meals or snacks.
- **\$621,008** was spent on local foods by HOM K-12 sites.
- **134** unique producers/vendors were listed by HOM sites. This means that schools are supporting their economy by buying locally.



Montana Team Nutrition lead the annual [Montana Crunch Time](#) celebration on **October 24, 2017** by crunching into a locally or regionally grown apple at the same exact time across the state!

19,413 children and adults registered their 2017 crunch!

39.9% of Summer Food Service Programs participate in Farm to School activities.

54.6%

of districts participate in FARM TO SCHOOL efforts.

444

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN FARM TO SCHOOL

Revenues and Expenses

MONTANA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

July 1, 2017– June 30, 2018

| INCOME | |
|--|---------------------|
| National School Lunch Program Meals | \$28,588,073 |
| Afterschool Snacks | \$366,287 |
| USDA Foods Entitlement | \$4,432,293 |
| National School Lunch Program (lunches, snacks and commodities) | \$33,386,653 |
| | |
| School Breakfast Program | \$10,358,880 |
| | |
| Special Milk Program | \$7,781 |
| | |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | \$2,071,127 |
| | |
| Summer Food Service Program | \$2,314,841 |
| | |
| Total Federal Funding | \$48,139,282 |
| Total State Matching Funds <i>(minimum required by USDA policy)</i> | \$653,084 |
| Total Federal and State Funding | \$48,792,366 |
| EXPENDITURES | |
| School Expenditures (food, labor, other) | \$58,343,544 |
| Federal and State Reimbursement | \$48,792,366 |
| Student, Adult Payments, General Fund, Other Sources | \$9,551,178 |



AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Want to learn more about
School Nutrition Programs
in Montana?

VISIT:

opi.mt.gov/schoolnutrition

