

MONTANA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

School Year 2021-2022



Photo courtesy of Browning Public Schools

Supporting Continued Access to School Meals




SY 2021-2022

Montana School Nutrition Programs



22.5 MILLION

MEALS SERVED TO STUDENTS



\$96,923,900

FEDERAL AND STATE REVENUE TO DISTRICTS

In school year 2021-2022, the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) School Nutrition Programs (SNP) administered U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- **Seamless Summer Option (SSO)**
- USDA Food Distribution Program (USDA Foods)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Montana Team Nutrition Program, including Farm to School

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.

VISION

Local school nutrition program professionals are empowered as community leaders to provide equitable access to healthy food and environments that support the success of Montana’s children.

MISSION

OPI’s School Nutrition Programs collaborate with the child nutrition community to provide high-quality training, support, and resources to ensure program integrity and access to nourishing meals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We develop and maintain strong partnerships to collaborate on realistic, community driven solutions.
- We value self-efficacy as a desired outcome of all training and technical assistance activities.
- We empower and recognize the vital role of Montana's child nutrition professionals in ensuring children’s health and academic success.
- We are committed to ensuring all communities have the resources they need to succeed.
- We are committed to creating a strong and inclusive culture of school wellness to support academic success and wellbeing.
- We are invested in promoting local and sustainable food sources, procurement, and practices.
- We are dedicated to providing exceptional customer service to schools, sponsors, and community partners.
- We are responsive and adaptable to changing circumstances.
- We value continuous learning and invest in ongoing professional development.
- We use data and evidence-based practices in decision making and operations management.
- We operate transparently and effectively as stewards of public resources.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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School Year 2021-22 COVID-19 Response

Montana districts returned to in-person from providing instruction virtually or through a hybrid model during the 2021-22 school year. This change created challenges for schools to provide meals safely within the school setting of classrooms, cafeterias, or as grab and go.

- The USDA established the Nationwide Waiver to allow schools to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during the school year which allowed many flexibilities including higher reimbursement, streamlining paperwork, flexible meal patterns, and serving meals free of charge to children. During SY 2021-2022, 89% of Montana’s schools opted into the waiver to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program instead of the traditional National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- To the 96% of students enrolled in one of Montana’s schools choosing to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), meals were provided free of charge and there was no need for these schools to collect free and reduced-price income information or meal money from parents. This reduced stigma for children and eased administrative and staffing burdens for schools.
- Whether operating SSO or NSLP, USDA waiver flexibilities made it possible for meals to be taken home, for parents to pick up, and for multiple days worth to be provided at one time.
- School nutrition staff showed their creativity and resilience when preparing and providing meals. Waiver flexibilities allowed them to provide meals in ways to react to vendor supply shortages, changing community conditions, and continue to ensure that all students have the nutrition they need to learn, thrive, and grow. However, many schools struggled with high food service staff turnover and maintain adequate staffing.
- Supply chain disruptions added challenges for schools to provide meals that comply with meal pattern requirements when food items were not available and added expense to tight budgets with increased food prices.
- Schools that operated the Seamless Summer Option received the higher Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates due to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates for the Seamless Summer Option during SY 2021-2022.

School Nutrition Programs				
SY 2021-2022 Reimbursement Rates				
Breakfast	Non-Severe Need		Severe Need	
Paid	0.33		0.33	
Reduced	1.67		2.05	
Free	1.97		2.35	
Lunch	Less than 60%	Less than 60% + Performance Based Reimb	60% or more	60% or more + Performance Based Reimb
Paid	0.35	0.42	0.37	0.44
Reduced	3.26	3.33	3.28	3.35
Free	3.66	3.73	3.68	3.75
Afterschool Snacks				
Paid	0.09			
Reduced	0.50			
Free	1.00			

Reimbursement Rates Summer 2022		
	Rural or Self Prep	Urban or Vended
Breakfast	2.6050	2.5550
Lunch	4.5625	4.4875
Snack	1.0775	1.0525

— Grants —

EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

\$68,638

18 capital equipment grants were awarded to local schools by the OPI.

SUPPLY CHAIN ASSISTANCE GRANTS

\$3,275,916

229 grants were awarded to local schools by the OPI to assist with supply chain disruptions, enhance efforts to strengthen local food supply chains and help overcome financial and operational barriers while maintaining children's access to nutritious meals.

NON-COMPETITIVE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT (nTIG)

\$1,890,997

School Nutrition Programs continues to develop, improve, and maintain automated information technology systems to operate and manage all Child Nutrition Programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW & TRAINING (ART) GRANT

\$1,549,279

School Nutrition Programs continues to support the integrity of programs by maintaining, upgrading, integrating, and enhancing the comprehensive Child Nutrition system.

— Training —

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

68 hours of continuing education provided by OPI School Nutrition Programs

103 hours of continuing education provided by MT Team Nutrition Program

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.



SY 2022 PROGRAMS

	MEALS/SNACKS	REIMBURSEMENT
School Breakfast Program	485,410	1,088,579
National School Lunch Program	629,476	2,104,898
Afterschool Snack Program	116,316	116,316
Special Milk Program	22,894	5,373
Seamless Summer Option	21,263,070	80,113,928
Summer Food Service Program	748,461	2,826,820
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	—	2,857,265
USDA Foods	—	4,268,074
DoD Fresh	—	1,025,612
MT Team Nutrition	—	—



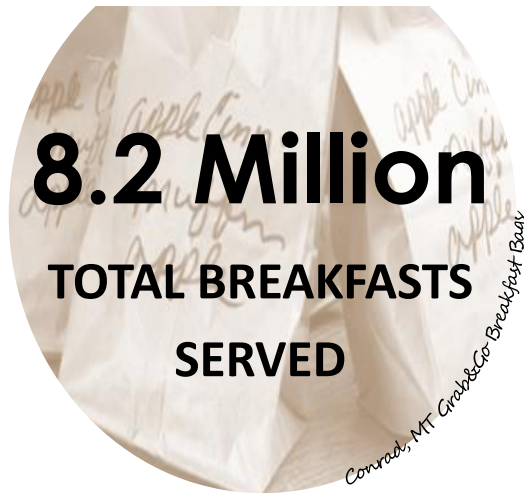
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

In response to COVID-19, the USDA allowed meal program flexibility through Federal and State waivers to ensure children's access to healthy school meals.

Beginning March 2020 and through SY 2021, eligible schools were given the option to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and feed all children 18 and under free of charge.

SFSP program BREAKFAST meals served in lieu of the traditional SBP and/or during traditional school year months, **display as orange values in the bar graph below.**



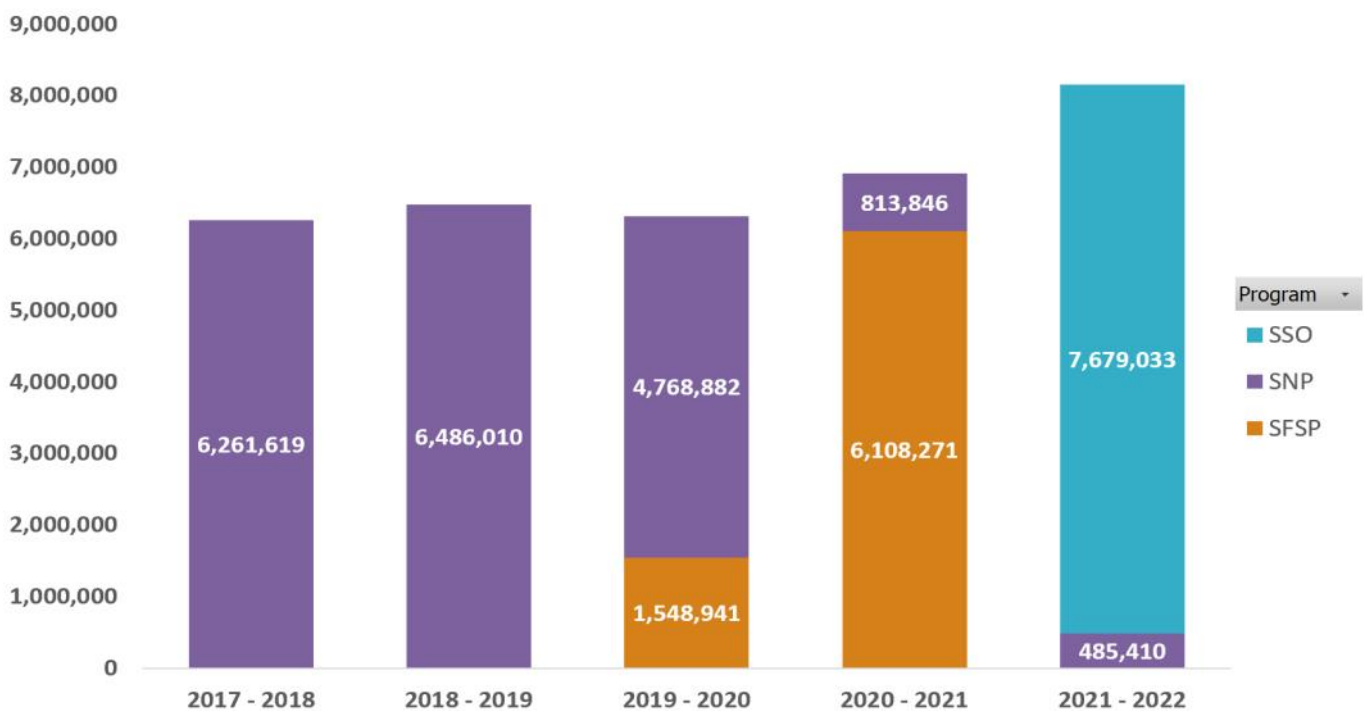
Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

As continued response to COVID-19, the USDA issued additional flexibility waivers during SY 2021-2022.

During SY 2021-2022, eligible schools were given the option to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and feed all students school meals free of charge.

SSO program BREAKFAST meals served in lieu of the NSLP and/or during traditional school year months, **display as blue values in the bar graph below.**

School Breakfast Meals Served through Flexible Program Options



18 % INCREASE

TOTAL BREAKFASTS INCREASED 18% FROM SY 2021 TO SY 2022.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

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Beginning March 2020 and through SY 2021, eligible schools were given the option to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and feed all children 18 and under free of charge.

SFSP program lunch meals served in lieu of the NSLP and/or during traditional school year months, **display as orange values in the bar graph below.**



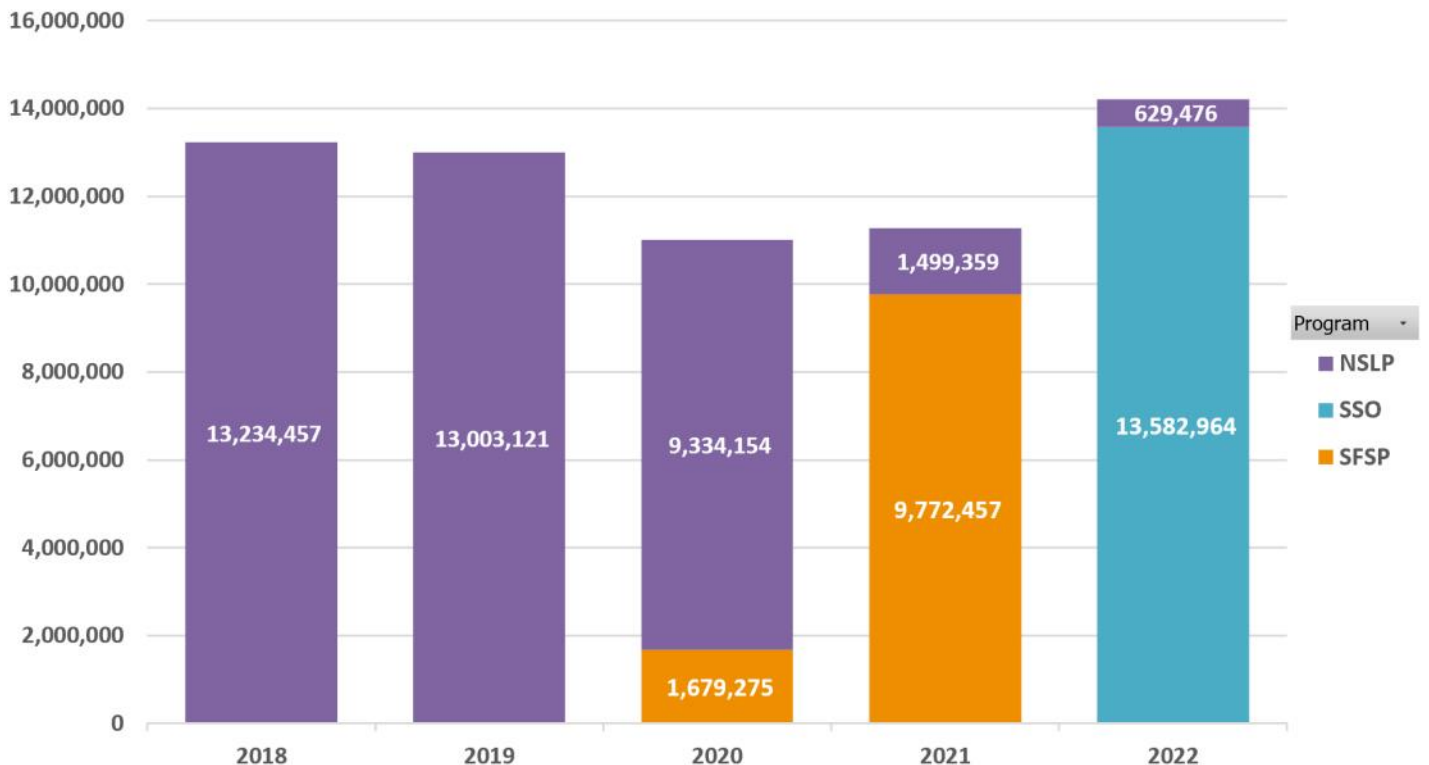
Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

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SSO program lunch meals served in lieu of the NSLP and/or during traditional school year months, **display as blue values in the bar graph below.**

School Lunch Meals Served through Flexible Program Options



26% INCREASE

TOTAL LUNCHES INCREASED 26% FROM SY 2021 TO SY 2022.

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM

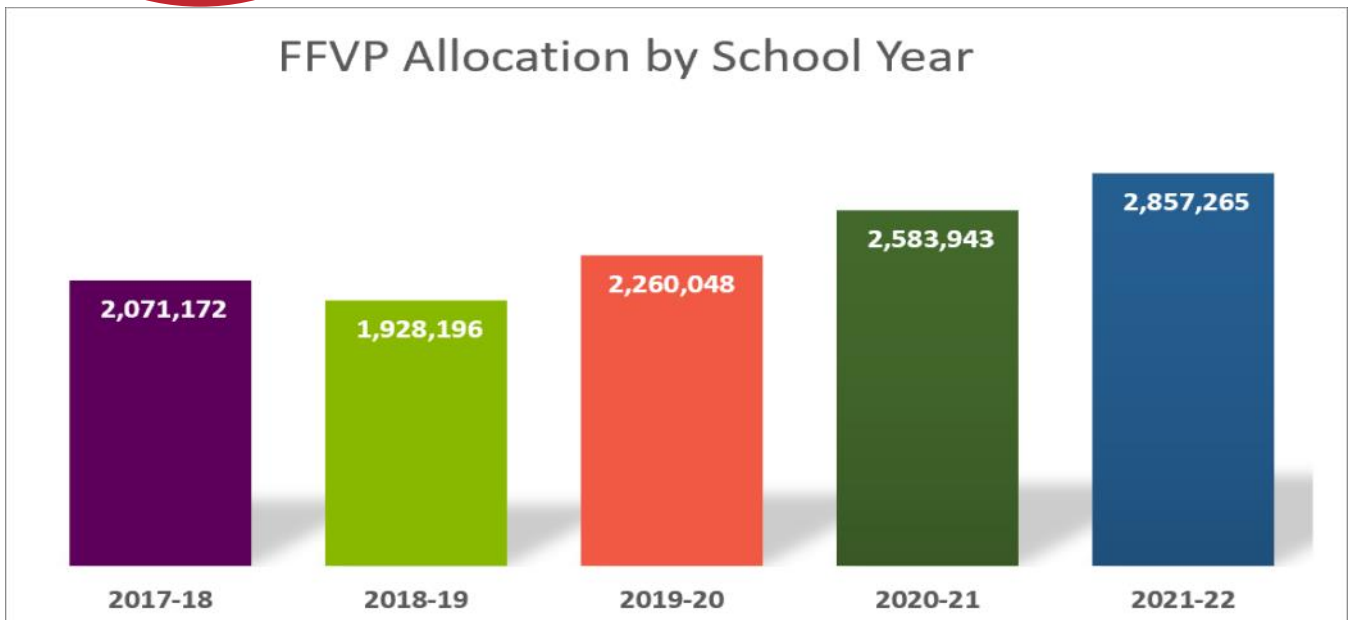
The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides funds to elementary schools for fresh fruit and vegetable snacks during the school day.



\$56.62
ALLOTMENT PER STUDENT

139

Schools Participated in FFVP



38,372

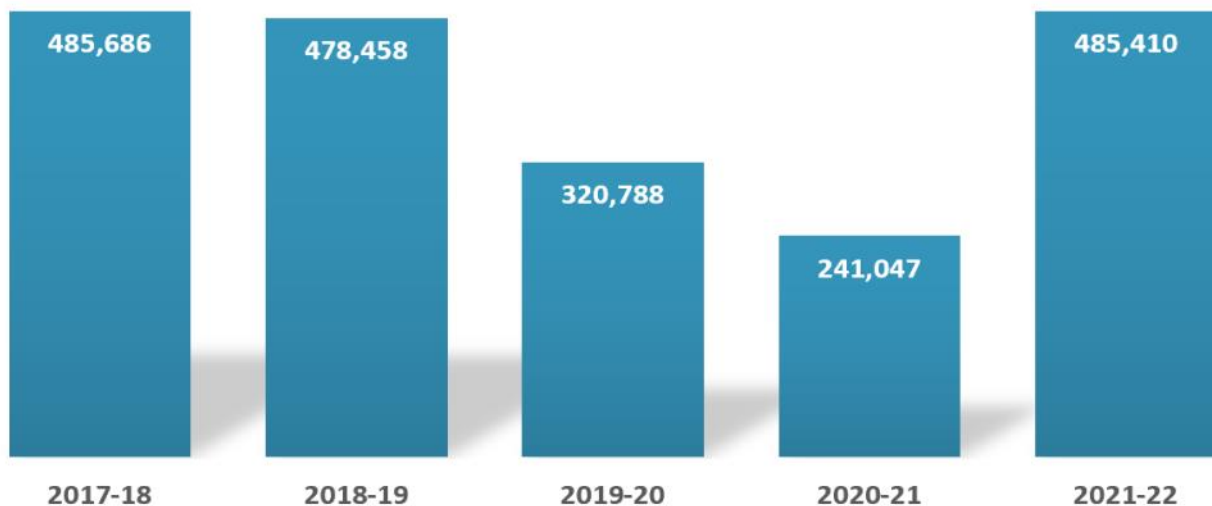
STUDENTS HAD ACCESS TO FFVP

AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM

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



Total Snacks Served



1,207

STUDENTS EAT A SNACK AFTER SCHOOL EACH DAY

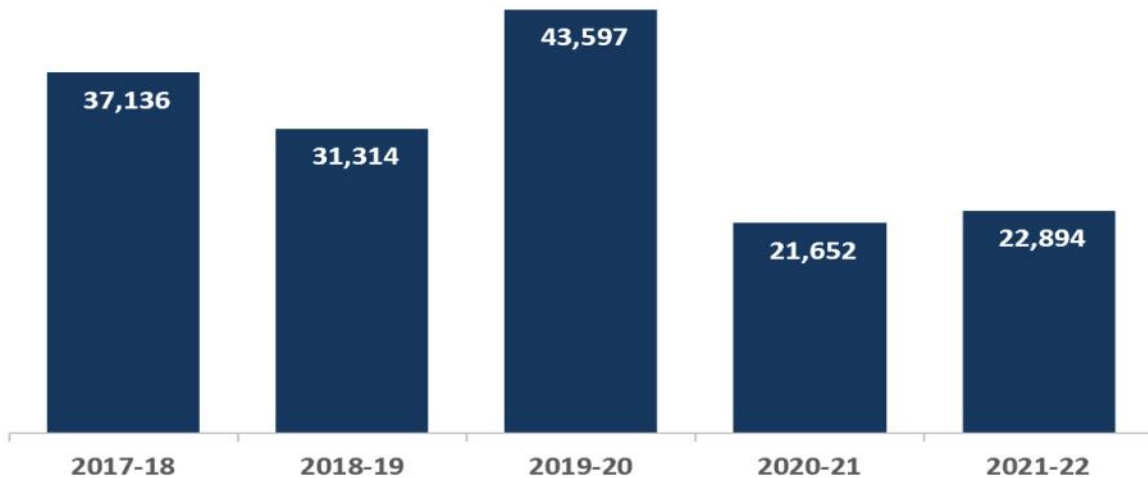
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

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 12 small schools/summer camps that do NOT offer breakfast or lunch to students.

TOTAL PINTS OF MILK SERVED



132

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.

100%
of foods offered through
USDA Foods/DOD Fresh are
AMERICAN GROWN

\$5.3 MILLION

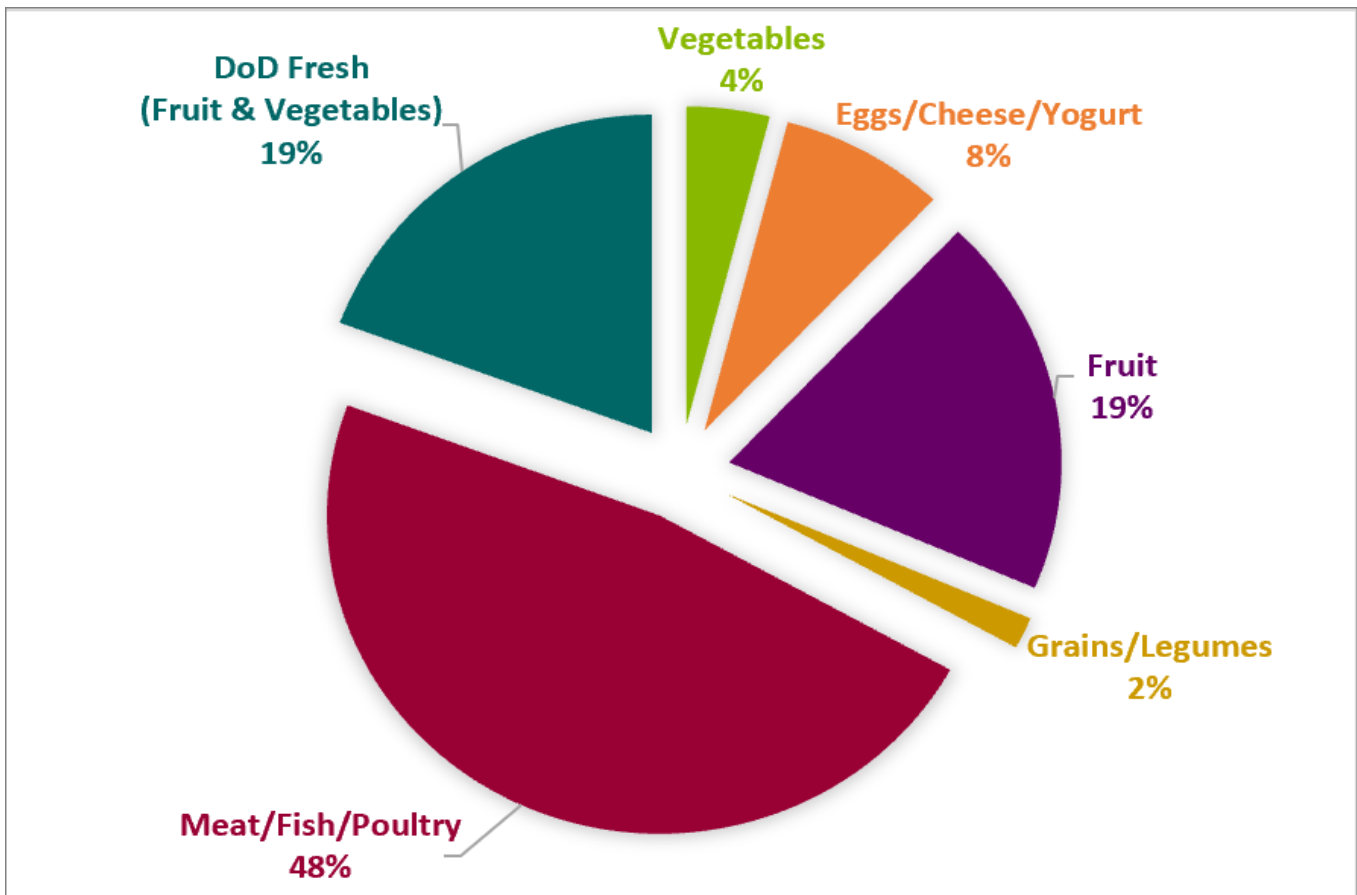
ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS

Veggie Cups @ Great Falls Public Schools

Did You Know....

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

Schools Received \$1,025,612 in fresh produce through USDA DoD Fresh.



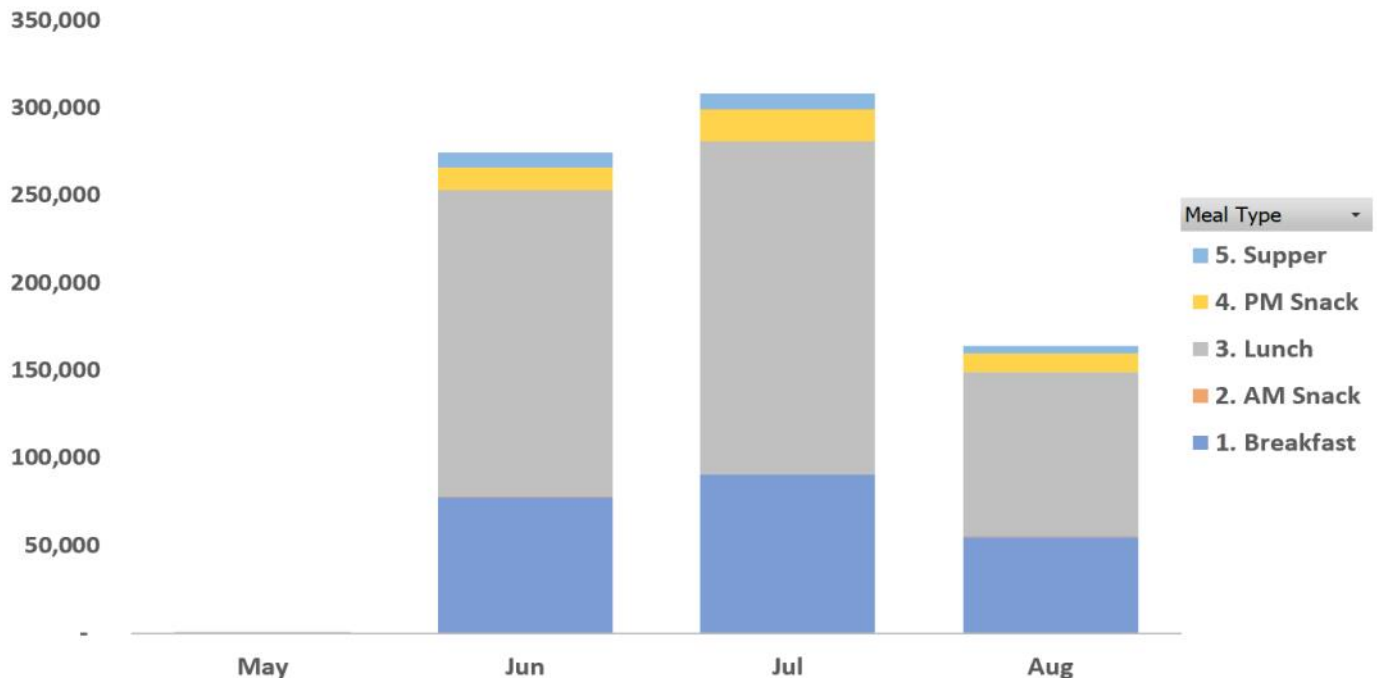
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to all kids, age 18 and under, during the summer months.



45,364

Meals Served Daily



101 Sponsors at 273 Sites

Including schools, home deliveries via bus routes, weekend and holiday meals, and drive-thru pick-up.



Montana Team Nutrition Annual Report: July 1 2021 – June 30 2022

Annual Report for School Year 2021 - 2022

The 2021–2022 school year began with schools returning to a regular school schedule after ending the previous year early due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, schools had significant turnover in School Food Director positions. Team Nutrition prioritized providing basic training on school meals and extra support to schools. Montana Team Nutrition (MTN), with support from the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) School Nutrition Programs and Montana State University, is proud to support school food service directors and their staff who were unstoppable in their goal to serve balanced meals to students in any and every situation.

MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION OUTREACH OUTCOMES

77 **158** **38** **62%**

Hours of training offered to school nutrition professionals

Number of school districts reached

Number of training opportunities offered

Percent of School Food Authorities in Montana reached

Bringing Back From Scratch Cooking

The 2019 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant supported the development and delivery of a two-week Montana Cook Fresh Leadership Institute focused on culinary skills and school nutrition program management to enhance meal quality and increase from-scratch cooking. Fifteen school districts (19 people) engaged in the training. Team Nutrition also conducted trainings on various topics through 9 OPI School Nutrition Program (SNP) Webinar Wednesdays and 11 SNP monthly chats. Essential training on meal pattern and culinary skills with new recipes were offered regionally across the state. Through individual contact with schools via phone call or video conferencing, 123 hours of technical assistance were provided on topics such as food safety, breakfast in the classroom, menu planning, farm to school, and more.



THE 2021 COOK FRESH CULINARY WORKSHOP KNIFE SKILLS



Learn More

WEB

www.montana.edu/teamnutrition

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/MontanaTeamNutrition

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The Montana Team Nutrition Program works in close collaboration with the Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs and is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Team Nutrition Training Grant Program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Harvesting Montana Recipes Contest

In partnership with Montana school districts, Montana Team Nutrition carried out the Harvesting Montana Recipes Project to create 6 tasty, standardized recipes featuring Montana grown ingredients such as barley, beets, bison, sweet cherries, and lentils. Students and school staff were actively engaged in the recipe development and testing through the Harvest of the Month Program. Schools hosted special local meal events to showcase the recipes. Recipes such as Montana Bison and Barley Soup, Bison and Lentil Chili, Luscious Lentil Hummus and more are being served in schools across the state. The recipes, available for both home and school use, are outstanding! This project was supported with a 2021 USDA Team Nutrition Grant.



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ENJOY THE LUSCIOUS LENTIL HUMMUS

Montana Farm to School

Montana Team Nutrition and the Office of Public Instruction have collaborated to provide farm to school leadership in Montana since 2008. Farm to school is a growing component of school nutrition and nutrition education programming. The Montana Farm to School Leadership Team, sponsored by the Office of Public Instruction, is facilitated by the Montana Farm to School Coordinator at Montana Team Nutrition. Partnerships are utilized across the state to enhance farm to school initiatives that help kids eat healthy, connect with agriculture and nutrition through education, support Montana farms and food producers, augment local economies, and strengthen communities.

A Strong Partnership

We are proud to work with Child Nutrition Professionals throughout our state to improve the health of Montana students through access to healthy school meals and nutrition education.

A look at the difference Team Nutrition is making: Pictured from left to right: Student from Philipsburg School samples local beets, Superintendent Mike Baer from Gardiner School enjoys the Bison and Lentil Chili, and Scott Plainfeather from Pryor School practices knife skills.





Montana Farm to School Annual Report

Academic Year 2021-2022

WHAT

What is farm to school?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by influencing food purchasing and education practices at K-12 schools and preschools. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities through such avenues as school gardening, cooking lessons, and farm field trips. Through community-driven approaches, farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following core elements: procurement, education, and school gardens.

Farm to School Participation Rates



OVERALL PARTICIPATION
Sites participating in at least one F2S activity

51.6%

PROCUREMENT

Serving local products in school meals



21.7%

SCHOOL GARDENS

Creating and tending school gardens

23.5%

EDUCATION

Conducting educational activities

WHY

Why does farm to school matter?

Farm to school not only connects kids with locally grown food and food and nutrition education, but it helps foster resilient food systems. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for farm to school to solve food supply issues and support the local economy.



Montana Farm to School Leadership Team

The Montana Farm to School Leadership Team works through partnerships across the state to build farm to school initiatives that help kids eat healthy, connect with agriculture and nutrition through education, support Montana farmers and food producers, foster economic vitality, and strengthen communities.

The Leadership Team consists of 15 member organizations with statewide focus and influence that are key to the success of farm to school in

Montana. The team has 7 working groups, 5 of which are open to the public. These meetings are a way for the Leadership Team to share updates, facilitate connections, gather input, and uplift local farm to school stories. To get involved, register for an upcoming meeting and/or contact the working group chair listed on the Leadership Team webpage. The Office of Public Instruction sponsors the Montana Farm to School Leadership Team. The team is facilitated by the Montana Farm to School Coordinator at Montana Team Nutrition Program.

2021 Member Organizations

- AERO
- Mission West Community Development Partners
- Montana Agriculture in the Classroom
- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Montana Department of Livestock
- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Montana Farmers Union
- Montana No Kid Hungry
- Montana Office of Public Instruction
- Montana School Nutrition Association
- Montana Team Nutrition Program, Montana State University
- Montana State University Extension
- National Center for Appropriate Technology
- Northern Plains Resource Council
- USDA Office of Community Food Systems, Mountain Plains Region

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Montana Harvest of the Month

Each month, participating sites focus on promoting one locally grown item (e.g., lentils) by serving it in at least one meal or snack, offering taste tests, conducting educational activities, and displaying or distributing Harvest of the Month materials.

Bison was featured as the newest Harvest of the Month food! A special team was formed to create the Buffalo materials which include Native knowledge, cultural information, and languages. This exciting partnership demonstrates how farm to school initiatives can support Native food sovereignty efforts.

Harvest of the Month



In school year 2021-2022



84 registered schools and afterschool programs

18,593

children reached at K-12 and Early Care + Education sites

24 registered early care and education sites



104

local food producers sold to sites



\$244,716

local foods purchased (not including fluid milk for K-12)



Mission West Community Development Partners

GET INVOLVED + CONTACT

Website

Find resources and information at:
www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool

Contact Us

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SOURCES

National School Lunch Program Annual Sponsor Agreement Form 2021-2022, Montana Office of Public Instruction

2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Montana Office of Public Instruction

Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2021, Feeding America

Montana Agriculture Statistics, 2021

Montana Farm to School Leadership Team Participation 2021, Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Harvest of the Month Participation 2021-2022, Montana Team Nutrition Program

Montana Farm to School Professional Development and Technical Assistance Tracker 2021-2022, Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Crunch Time Participation 2021, Montana Team Nutrition

Training + Resources

There are many ways to learn about farm to school and access resources! Montana Farm to School hosts farm to school webinars and in-person trainings as well as an archive of previous trainings on the Montana Farm to School website.

The Montana Farm to School Summit is a statewide biennial convening geared toward farm to school implementers such as educators, school administrators, school nutrition professionals, parents, and food producers. In 2021, 144 people attended the summit in-person in Helena and 25 people attended virtually.

12

Trainings in 2021-2022

26+

Hours of events

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

@montanafarmtoschool
1,462 followers

@mtfarmtoschool
1,334 followers

Montana Harvest of the Month
2,639 views

Celebrating Farm to School Month

Montana Crunch Time is a statewide event to celebrate National Farm to School Month and 'buy local' initiatives in Montana by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples on a designated day in October.



30,958 people participated in Montana Crunch Time 2021



Revenue

MONTANA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022

National School Lunch Program Meals	2,104,898
Afterschool Snacks	116,316
USDA Foods Entitlement	5,293,686
Total National School Lunch Program (lunches, snacks and commodities)	7,514,900
School Breakfast Program	1,088,579
Special Milk Program	5,373
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	2,857,265
Summer Food Service Program	2,826,820
Seamless Summer Option	80,113,928
Equipment Assistance Grants	63,638
Supply Chain Assistance Grants	3,275,916
Total Federal Funding	92,922,514
Total State Matching Funds (minimum required by USDA policy)	661,832
Total Federal and State Funding	96,923,900



AND JUSTICE

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** Program.Intake@usda.gov

Want to learn more about
School Nutrition Programs
in Montana?

VISIT:

opi.mt.gov/schoolnutrition

