

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Information for the 2021-2022 School Year

Unlike the previous school year waivers, **the new set of waivers for SY 2021-2022 did not extend the option for school food authorities (SFAs) or non-school sponsors to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in SY 2021-2022.** Schools will instead choose to operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or the regular NSLP and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

This means that schools will **return to the school meal pattern**, which emphasizes healthy eating with a focus on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and sensible calorie levels. However, FNS has issued a **targeted meal pattern waiver** to give schools the flexibility they need to provide a safe meal service in SY 2021-2022. In recognition of the additional costs of serving safe meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS is also allowing **schools operating SSO to receive the higher SFSP reimbursement rate** in SY 2021-2022.

Note: The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is not an option for the academic 2021-2022 SY

Topic	Seamless Summer Option (SSO)	National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP)
Eligible Sponsors	SFAs with an approved NSLP School Nutrition Contract for the 2021-2022 SY.	SFAs with an approved NSLP School Nutrition Contract for the 2021-2022 SY
Eligible Participants	Depending on Site Type, a School may offer meals to all children enrolled in the school plus any child age 18 and under or a school may choose to only serve students enrolled	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the State Agency; including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an RCCI.
Site Types	<u>Choose One:</u> <i>Open:</i> To any child age 18 and under <i>Closed-Enrolled:</i> Only open to enrolled students	Only open to enrolled students (see Eligible Participants)
Meal Service Locations	Schools, RCCIs, non-school sites (as needed)	Schools, RCCIs
Meal Cost for Children	Meals are free for all children	Meal cost and reimbursement is based on student's free, reduced-price, and paid eligibility
Types of Meals	<u>Choose Two</u> Breakfast AM Snack Lunch PM Snack	Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
Maximum Number of Meals	Maximum two meals per day. FNS encourages schools to consider participating in CACFP for Afterschool Snacks, Suppers, and/or Weekend Meals	There is no maximum; all meal programs may be served
Meal Pattern	Must meet NSLP and SBP meal pattern standards. Meal patterns and OVS flexibilities may be granted in specific circumstances	Must meet NSLP and SBP meal pattern standards. Meal patterns and OVS flexibilities may be granted in specific circumstances
Weekend Meals	Only RCCIs may be reimbursed for weekend meals. Other sponsors – refer to CACFP	Only RCCIs may be reimbursed for weekend meals. Other sponsors – refer to CACFP

Topic	SSO	NSLP								
Meal Time Service Requirements	Meal Service Times Waiver No Meal Service Time Requirements	Meal Service Times Waiver No Meal Service Time Requirements								
Times of Operation	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school.	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school.								
USDA Foods	37 cents per meal	37 cents per meal.								
Reimbursement Rates	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Meal</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Breakfast</td> <td>\$2.4625</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lunch or Supper</td> <td>\$4.3175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snack</td> <td>\$1.0200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Through December 31, 2021. Rates will change based on the Consumer Price Index January 1, 2022. SFSP rates only allowed in SSO for SY 2021-2022.</i></p>	Type of Meal		Breakfast	\$2.4625	Lunch or Supper	\$4.3175	Snack	\$1.0200	School Year 2021-22 Reimbursement Rates 2021-2022 (mt.gov)
Type of Meal										
Breakfast	\$2.4625									
Lunch or Supper	\$4.3175									
Snack	\$1.0200									
Monitoring Required of SFA/Sponsors	Onsite Monitoring Requirements Waiver To ensure continued program integrity, SFAs are encouraged to complete a desk audit of counting, claiming, and meal pattern compliance for each site.	Onsite Monitoring Requirements Waiver								
State Agency Monitoring	Limited Administrative Review for SFAs due for an NSLP Review Onsite Monitoring Requirements Waiver	Administrative Reviews Onsite Monitoring Requirements Waiver								
Public Notification	For SY 2021-2022, schools participating in SSO should provide the public release that all meals will be offered free through SSO. Template coming soon	SFAs must provide the public release to media and other organizations to inform the public of participation in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Template coming soon								
Free and Reduced Price Applications	Not required. Schools must collect and process if families want to turn them in, but they do not need to be actively distributed	Required to distribute and process in order to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.								