



RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSORS

- Maintain financial records to ensure nonprofit status
- Provide applications for meal benefits to each household
- Approve and/or deny applications for meal benefits
- Verify current income from a sample of households selected
- Offer free or reduced-price meals to eligible children based on household income
- Ensure meals meet federal nutrient standards
- Take meal counts at the point of service
- Conduct a monthly edit check of meal counts
- Conduct an on-site review if the sponsor has more than one school to ensure accurate counting and claiming of meals
- Submit claims for meal reimbursements
- Competitively bid for purchased food, supplies, equipment and services

A renewal application must be submitted each year in order to continue participation. Online applications are active beginning July 1 through June 30.

APPLYING

Organizations eligible to participate in the NSLP:

- Public schools
- Charter schools
- Private nonprofit schools that are tax exempt
- Public and private nonprofit licensed residential child care institutions

Charter schools and private nonprofit schools must be registered as a school by the Florida Department of Education and must submit a copy of the tax exempt letter showing status under the section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and provide a copy of the Department of Health Operating Permit.

For more information on how to apply and download forms, visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com/NSLPapply

CONTACT US

Florida Department of Agriculture
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The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is an equal opportunity provider.

SCHOOL MEALS

How your school can participate in the National School Lunch Program





WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM?

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally funded program that assists schools and other agencies in providing nutritious lunch meals to children at reasonable prices. In addition to financial assistance, the program provides donated commodity foods to help reduce lunch program costs. The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for nationally overseeing the program.

The NSLP is a voluntary program available to all public and private schools and residential child care institutions. Through the NSLP, sponsoring schools and agencies receive cash reimbursement for each meal served. The sponsors of the program must:

- Operate a nonprofit program
- Neither identify nor discriminate against any eligible student and operate food service for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion or reprisal

BENEFITS OF THE NSLP

- Provides children with nutritious meals that contain 1/3 of the recommended dietary allowance of necessary nutrients
- Offers parents a convenient method of providing a well-balanced meal at the lowest possible price
- Enhances children's learning abilities by contributing to their physical and mental well-being



Studies have shown that children whose nutritional needs are met have fewer attendance and discipline problems and are more attentive in class!

NUTRITION

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 made the first major changes in school meals in 15 years with the intention of raising a healthier generation of students. The new meal standards align school meals with the latest dietary guidelines.

The new standards for meals include:

- Fruits and vegetables every day of the week
- Whole grain-rich foods
- Only fat-free or low-fat milk varieties
- A limited number of calories based on the age of students served
- A reduction in amounts of saturated fat and sodium and the elimination of products with added trans fat

School meals must meet the federal nutrition requirements, but decisions about what foods to serve and how they are prepared are made by school food authorities (SFAs).

VENDED SERVICES

SFAs may contract with a food service management company or vendor to provide meal services. Sponsors are required to meet or exceed federal procurement procedures and regulations that govern Child Nutrition Programs when developing the bid documents and awarding the contract. To ensure compliance with federal procurement procedures, SFAs must submit formal contract documents to our office for review prior to seeking bids.