



USDA Foods in Schools / Child Nutrition USDA Foods Program

1. How does USDA support meal service in Schools/Child Nutrition Programs?

The [USDA Foods in Schools / Child Nutrition USDA Foods Program](#) supports domestic nutrition programs and American agricultural producers through purchases of domestic agricultural products for use in schools and institutions. Nutritious USDA-purchased food is provided to the following Child Nutrition programs:

- the National School Lunch Program,
- the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and
- the Summer Food Service Program.

2. What type of USDA Food support does USDA give the school lunch program?

In school year 2019, schools participating in the [National School Lunch Program](#) (NSLP) received USDA Foods, called “entitlement” foods, at an effective value of 36.25 cents for each lunch served. This includes the published per meal rate plus added funds from a legislative provision that requires that total USDA Foods assistance equal at least 12% of all cash and USDA Food assistance provided by USDA.

USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) coordinates the distribution of USDA Foods to

States in support of approximately 100,000 public and private nonprofit schools that provide lunches to students. The entitlement amount varies from year to year based on an annual adjustment which reflects changes in the Producer Price Index of Foods used in Schools and Institutions. Benefits delivered in past years are listed in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:
NSLP Entitlement & USDA Food Benefits Delivered**

Year	Effective rate per lunch (cents)	\$ Value (millions)	Pounds (millions)
SY 19	\$0.3625	\$1.288	1.307
SY 18	\$0.3350	\$1.349	1.364
SY 17	\$0.3200	\$1.381	1.384
SY 16	\$0.3125	\$1.453	1.356

3. What type of USDA Foods support does USDA give to other Child Nutrition Programs?

[Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP): FNS’s Food Distribution Division distributes USDA Foods to ensure that children and adults in approved day care centers receive nutritious meals and snacks. Institutions have the option of receiving USDA Foods or cash in lieu for the CACFP. The level of assistance for lunches and suppers served by CACFP is the published rate for SY 19, which is 23.75 cents per meal.

During School Year 2019, USDA expects to purchase over \$1.2 billion in USDA Foods for Schools and Child Nutrition Programs (approximately 1.3 billion pounds).

[Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP): FNS distributes USDA Foods to SFSP sites serving needy children during summer vacations from school.





These sites include schools, colleges, and universities participating in the National Youth Sports Programs, non-profit summer camps, and centers for homeless children, to name a few.

For meals prepared on-site, providers receive 1.5 cents per meal in USDA Foods. USDA Foods ordered for the NSLP may also be used in the SFSP.

4. What types of food are available to States for Schools/Child Nutrition USDA Foods Programs?

States may select a wide variety of USDA Foods for their schools, child and adult care centers, family day care centers, and summer program sites from a list of more than 200 products.

[Foods Available in SY 2020](#) for the [USDA Foods in Schools/ Child Nutrition USDA Foods Programs](#) include U.S. grown, processed, and packed, high quality vegetables, fruits, dairy products, whole grains, lean meats, and other protein options. In recent years, USDA has reformulated products in every food category to lower the levels of sodium, sugar, and fat, and to help offer nutrient-dense, kid-friendly meals.

5. Who should I contact for more information about Schools/Child Nutrition USDA Foods Programs?

USDA's Food Distribution Programs are coordinated by the USDA/FNS Food Distribution Division and administered at the State level by State Distributing Agencies (SDAs). Please contact your [State Distributing Agency](#) for more information about the USDA

Foods distributed to schools and institutions participating in this program in your State.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. 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.

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