

Program Participation

The Child Nutrition Programs are federally funded and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). At the state level, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Nutrition Division is the administering agency working with schools, community organizations, child care centers, day care homes, and other sponsoring organizations to provide nutritious meals, snacks, and/or milk for children. Reimbursement is paid to sponsoring organizations based on the number of reimbursable meals or milk served to eligible children.

Each Child Nutrition Program is operated under a separate set of regulations, monitoring standards, and record keeping requirements. This section of the handbook will provide general information about all of the available programs.

Participating sponsors must agree to operate programs according to the following regulations:

- Serve meals that meet federal requirements
- Operate a nonprofit food service program
- Offer FREE, REDUCED-PRICE and PAID meals to eligible children
- Do not identify nor discriminate against any eligible child
- Operate food service for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability

A variety of Child Nutrition Programs are available to public and private, non-profit (federally tax-exempt) schools; residential child care institutions (RCCIs); day care homes; child care centers; and camps that serve children in grades 12 and below.

School Nutrition Programs

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Seamless Summer Option (SSO)
- After-School Snack Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program
- Food Distribution Program (FDP)
- Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Child and Adult Care Food Program

- Day care homes
- Child care centers

Summer Food Service Program