

## School Breakfast Program

The **School Breakfast Program (SBP)** is a federally assisted meal program that provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free breakfasts to children each school day. It is administered at the federal level by the USDA and at the state level by ISBE.

### Program Requirements

The SBP operates in the same manner as the NSLP. Sponsors that choose to take part in the SBP receive cash subsidies from the USDA for each meal served. In return, breakfasts served to students must meet federal requirements.

The [Illinois Childhood Hunger Relief Act](#) (Public Act 96-0158) stipulates that all public schools in which at least 40 percent of the students were eligible for FREE or REDUCED-PRICE lunches in the preceding year must operate a breakfast program. Provisions are included in the law to allow a school district to opt out of the breakfast program under certain financial circumstances.

### Nutritional Requirements

School breakfasts must meet meal requirements specific to the age/grade grouping being served. Please visit the ISBE website for detailed [Meal Pattern Information and Nutritional Requirements](#).

### Service Requirements

Participating schools must serve breakfasts that meet the federal nutrition standards and must provide FREE and REDUCED-PRICE breakfasts to eligible children. Participating schools receive cash assistance from the USDA for each meal served that meets program requirements.

The reimbursable meal must be priced as a unit and available to all children regardless of their ability to pay. Meal service for breakfast must be available every school day near the beginning of the school day with adequate time for the meal to be served and eaten.

### Eligible Children

Children at a participating school may receive a meal through the SBP. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for FREE meals. Those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for REDUCED-PRICE meals, for which students can be charged no more than 30 cents for breakfast. Meals are also available at the PAID price for all children who do not qualify for FREE or REDUCED-PRICE meals. All enrolled children are encouraged to participate in the SBP, as the meal is nutritionally balanced and the sponsor will receive reimbursement for all meals served.

Local school food authorities (SFAs) set their own prices for full-priced meals, but must operate their meal services as a non-profit program.

### Menu Planning

The USDA requires specific food components be served in required amounts based on the age/grade group being served. The required components include: fluid milk, grains, and fruits.