

Ohio's School Lunch Program

The Ohio Department of Education, Office for Safety, Health and Nutrition, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, administers the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, After School Care Snack, and Government Donated Food (Commodity) Program among others.

Nationally, over 25 million students in over 90 thousand schools and agencies participate in Child Nutrition Programs, making them one of the country's largest food service operations. Ohio's food service programs serve over 2 million meals daily at over 4,000 sites.

The goals of the Child Nutrition Programs are to:

- Safeguard the health and well being of the nation's children
- Encourage domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural foods
- Give Children an understanding of the relationship between proper eating habits and good health
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Who can apply to participate in the lunch program?

- Any school of high school grade or under recognized by the State of Ohio as operating under public or nonprofit private ownership
- Any public or nonprofit classes of pre-primary grades when conducted in the aforementioned schools
- Any public or nonprofit, private licensed Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI).

What qualifies a student to participate?

Any student under age 21 who is enrolled in an eligible school or RCCI may participate. Additional benefits may be available to a student when his or her guardian submits a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application. Based on the household size and income, the student may be eligible for meals free or at a reduced price.

Schools may charge no more than \$0.40 for a reduced-price lunch. Schools set their own prices of meals served to students who pay the full meal price (paid full-price), though they must operate their meal services as non-profit programs.

What are the meal service requirements for lunch?

To be eligible for reimbursement and government donated foods. Participating schools and agencies must prepare and serve meals that meet federal nutrition requirements

What are the meal service requirements for Lunch?

To be eligible for cash reimbursement, meals must be planned to meet the School Lunch Program pattern requirements as follows:

Traditional/Enhanced Menu Patterns for lunch must include daily:

- 8 ounces of fluid milk
- ¾ cup total of two different fruits and/or vegetables
- 2 ounces of meat or meat alternate
- 1 serving of grain/bread