

Continue and Increase USDA Foods (Commodities) Support for the School Breakfast Program (SBP)

The USDA Foods program purchases high-quality domestic agricultural commodities and distributes them to states for use in preparing school meals. USDA Foods include fruits and vegetables, lean protein, low-fat dairy foods, whole grains and oils and account for approximately 15-20 percent of the foods served as part of school lunch.

Although USDA Foods may be served with school breakfast, a state's USDA Foods entitlement is based only on the number of *lunches* served and does not account for the more than 14 million breakfasts served each school day.

Schools are working to increase student access to healthy school breakfasts, as [research shows](#) that breakfast consumption improves student behavior, attendance and performance on standardized tests. To sustain these efforts, **the FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bill contains \$20 million for breakfast commodities. Congress should support students, US farmers and school meal programs by expanding this funding in FY 2020.**

Expanding USDA Foods will:

Benefit students by allowing children to enjoy a wider variety of American-grown foods as part of a nutritious school breakfast. USDA Foods support would also help schools invest in innovative breakfast in the classroom or grab-and-go programs, which are proven to increase school breakfast consumption and better serve the 13 million children living in food insecure households. [Click here](#) to learn how many students participate in SBP in your state.

Support farmers by increasing purchases of 100% American-grown foods and creating a larger market for high-quality surplus agricultural products. USDA Foods is even allowing schools to source fresh fruits and vegetables from local growers through the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh). [Click here](#) to learn about the USDA Foods purchased in your state.

Help schools by reducing their food expenditures, allowing them to manage rising costs and invest limited foodservice dollars into menu improvements for students. USDA estimated the cost of meeting updated nutrition standards for school breakfast would increase food and labor expenses by **27 cents per breakfast**, yet no additional funding or USDA Foods entitlement was provided. Thanks to USDA's large volume purchasing power, schools can order USDA Foods at a lower price point than in the commercial market, allowing schools to stretch their food dollars further.