



School Meal Mandates and Reimbursements Across the U.S. School Year 2013-2014 - As of November 2013

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) are federally funded at specific rates set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) each year to cover the cost of free and reduced meals, as well as some additional support for paid meals. The purpose of these child nutrition programs is to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children each school day. It is up to each state if participation in these programs is optional or mandated resulting in diverse circumstances.

Each state is also required to provide a certain matching amount based on a rate first set in the 1980s. Many states provide additional reimbursement on top of the matching requirement, which can range from per meal reimbursements to salary support to general funds to assist with program operations. This report is a comprehensive summary of each State's mandates and guidelines with an additional chart for brief reference. The information reflected in this document is to the best of SNA's knowledge and is current as of the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

Alabama

Alabama does not mandate that schools participate in either the NSLP or SBP. While the State does not provide a per meal reimbursement, it does provide a substantial amount of funding including 100% of the cost of employee fringe benefits in addition to the amount of the mandated raise per individual. The amount of this funding approaches the amount of reimbursement received from USDA.

Alaska

Alaska does not mandate school meal programs, and the Alaska State Legislature does not provide specific state funds for meal reimbursements. However, the legislature does provide foundation formula state funds to all school districts, based on a formula that addresses regional and economic factors around the state, and the districts may choose to use some of their foundation formula funds toward their school meals programs.

Arizona

The state does mandate that all K-8 schools with an enrollment over 100 students participate in the NSLP. It provides additional funding for meal programs.

Arkansas

Arkansas does not have a mandate for the NSLP but does require the SBP. There are no additional reimbursements from state funds. Arkansas Code requires all schools with 20% or more of the students eligible for free and reduced price meals during the

preceding school year, to provide students with a school breakfast program. In early 2013, Arkansas passed a pilot school breakfast expansion program with a \$1 million grant to cover startup costs.

California

California requires that all public schools must provide at least one nutritious meal (meeting federal standards) daily to all free or reduced priced meal eligible students. The law also requires that severe-need schools have a breakfast program for providing breakfast to low-income children. If provided by the legislature, the Dept. of Education can grant up to \$15,000 in grant money per school site (on a competitive basis) to expand their breakfast program. The grant money can also be used to expand and/or promote the Summer Meals Program. California also provides an additional reimbursement with state funds and provides support for schools not participating in the National programs. For the 2013-2014 school year, the reimbursement rate is \$0.2229 for each qualifying free or reduced price meal (breakfast or lunch) served in public schools.

Colorado

Colorado does not have specific mandates pertaining to lunch, but in 2013, the State enacted the “Breakfast After the Bell” legislation which requires that schools with 80% free/reduced provide breakfast free of charge to all students. There is also an appropriation for school breakfast programs in low-performing schools. Districts that receive money under this section use the money to create, expand, or enhance school breakfast programs. Also, the State eliminated the reduced price category for all breakfast with the state reimbursing the \$.30 to the school districts. Colorado also covers the reduced lunch price of \$.40 for grades K-2.

Connecticut

There is no mandate that a school must participate in the NSLP. However, if 80% of school lunches served in any elementary school are served to children eligible for free or reduced price meals, that school must offer SBP. All public schools that participate in the NSLP can receive additional reimbursement of \$.10 per reimbursable meal if they provide yearly certification under the Healthy Food Certification Process. State reimbursement is provided to State-defined severe need breakfast eligible schools for school breakfast programs to equal \$3,000/year and up to \$.10 for each breakfast served (based on the level of appropriations this has equaled around \$.45 in recent years). The State defines a severe-need breakfast school as one where 20% of the lunches served in the second prior year were to free or reduced students.

Delaware

Delaware does not have a mandate for schools to serve breakfast and/or lunch. The State does not provide a per meal reimbursement for breakfast or lunch, but does provide up to 70% of School Food Authorities (SFAs) staff salaries.

Florida

All schools must provide a lunch program, but it does not have to be NSLP. However, all districts that offer NSLP must provide SBP in elementary schools. Breakfast programs shall be offered at no cost to the students in schools in which 80% or more of the students enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The State also provides Cafeteria inspection funds to help offset the cost to public schools that are on the NSLP for the required annual inspections of cafeterias by the county health departments.

Georgia

Georgia State Board of Education requires all schools to participate in a state approved school nutrition program that at a minimum is lunch, but it does not have to be the NSLP. Georgia also mandates that schools with grades K-8 must establish and support a breakfast program if at least 25% of the student population is eligible for free or reduced price lunch. For all other grades, a breakfast program is required if at least 40% of the student population receives free or reduced meals. The State supplements federal reimbursement by base salary assistance for full-time school lunch staff; sick day pay assistance for school lunch staff; and a manager's supplement.

Hawaii

Hawaii does mandate school lunch and school breakfast, but not participation in the NSLP or SBP. The Hawaii public school meals are paid for by federal reimbursement, revenue collected by the paying students and the remainder by State funds. Hawaii State funds are budgeted to subsidize the remaining portion of the school meals.

Idaho

There is no state mandate that schools must participate in the NSLP or SBP. The state does provide some additional funding which assists school districts in covering FICA taxes for school nutrition employees.

Illinois

Illinois does not mandate the NSLP but does require that schools with 40% or greater free and reduced price eligible students, based on October of the previous year, must offer a breakfast program the following year. Under the Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Program, reimbursement is paid monthly based on the number of meals claimed. The statutory reimbursement rate is \$0.05 for each meal served for School Year 2013-2014. If the funds appropriated do not meet the statutory reimbursement rate, the rate per meal served is prorated. School districts that have schools with 50% free and reduced price eligible students and operate a summer school program, must offer a meal program at these schools to all the students in the community for the duration of the summer school program.

Indiana

Indiana does not mandate participation in the NSLP but does mandate the SBP in certain circumstances. If a school's enrollment has 15% or more eligible for free or reduced-

price meals, the school must offer the SBP. Indiana does not provide additional state reimbursement.

Iowa

It is Iowa law that a school district shall operate or provide for the operation of lunch programs in all schools, but it is not required that it be NSLP. It is not mandatory to offer breakfast. Iowa provides \$.04 per lunch and \$.03 per breakfast as long as matching dollars last.

Kansas

There is no state mandate for school lunch in Kansas. However, it does require that schools with 35% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals offer school breakfast. School districts with less than 35% of students eligible for free or reduced price meals can request a waiver asking to be released from this requirement. Kansas provides approximately \$.05 of state reimbursement for each lunch serve but there is no state reimbursement for breakfasts.

Kentucky

Kentucky has no school meals mandates. It also does not provide state reimbursements. However, local school districts that do not have breakfast programs must explain their reasons to the State Board of Education.

Louisiana

Louisiana requires all public schools to operate the NSLP and requires schools with at least 25% of the student body eligible for free and reduced price meals to operate the SBP. It does provide additional funds to support school nutrition programs.

Maine

Maine mandates that public schools must participate in the NSLP through at least the 8th grade, but secondary schools may opt out. There is no mandate for breakfast. Public schools receive an additional reimbursement of \$.05 per lunch. Maine covers the price of reduced price breakfast for students amounting to \$.30. It also provides grants for the purchase of fruits and vegetables for schools with more than 50% free and reduced meals and provides \$1 of reimbursement for every \$3 spent on local produce, which is capped at \$1,000 per district per year if funding is available.

Maryland

Maryland law states that each public school shall provide a program of subsidized or free feeding programs for children, but does not require NSLP. The state also mandates that each county board provide in each elementary school a free and reduced price breakfast, unless the school is exempted. Maryland also offers a program called Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program (MMFA). This program is funded by the state legislature at \$3.36 million for FY 2013 and the Governor proposed \$5.16 million for FY 2014. In participating schools, no child pays for

breakfast. State monies reimburse all reduced-price breakfasts at \$.30 and a formula is used to reimburse the paid meals based on the percentage of school enrollment in the free and reduced categories.

<u>Percent of free/reduced</u>	<u>Paid meal reimbursement</u>
40-50 %	\$.85
50+ - 60%	.75
60+ - 70%	.65
70+ - 80%	.55
80+ - 90%	.45
90+ - 100%	.35

Massachusetts

For lunch, Massachusetts requires all public schools to participate in NSLP. For breakfast, public schools must offer breakfast if they are federal severe needs schools. For an elementary school that is mandated to serve breakfast, if its breakfast costs exceed the severe needs reimbursement amount, it receives up to \$.14 per breakfast from the state. Such needs are re-assessed in March, and additional costs are covered if money is available. Cost documentation needs to be provided. For schools that offer universal breakfast, their costs are re-assessed each March. In previous years, such schools received \$.48 for each breakfast served. It does not provide any reimbursement of school lunch beyond the required state match.

Michigan

In Michigan, a lunch program is required to be operated in all schools and a breakfast program in schools where more than 20% of enrolled pupils were eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Any school not required to have a breakfast program must hold an annual public hearing. If, after a public hearing, the board decides not to operate a breakfast program, a public justification report explaining that decision must be published. Section 31d of the State Aid Act provides funds to schools to assist in operating a school lunch program. The payments made under this section include all state payments made to districts so that each receives up to 6.0127% of the necessary costs of operating the school lunch program.

Minnesota

There is no specific lunch mandate in Minnesota, but the State does require a breakfast program for schools that are 33% free or reduced. As of 2013, the state provides \$.125 for every lunch served, \$.30 for every reduced price breakfast served, and \$.55 for every full paid breakfast served. In addition to the breakfast and lunch programs, Minnesota offers a kindergarten milk program and provides a reimbursement of \$.20 for one half pint of milk served per kindergarten student per day.

Mississippi

Mississippi has no state meals mandate and does not provide additional state reimbursements.

Missouri

Missouri does not mandate school lunch. However, any school in which 35% or more of the enrollment is approved for free and reduced priced meals on Oct. 1 must implement a breakfast program by the following July 1. Schools can apply for a waiver from this requirement. The state provides no additional reimbursement.

Montana

Montana has no school meals mandate and does not provide state reimbursements.

Nebraska

Nebraska does not mandate lunch or breakfast. State reimbursement in the amount of \$.05 per breakfast served in public schools is paid in the second year after the breakfasts are served. The state reimbursement for lunch is paid to public schools to meet the required match. It is paid twice per year and usually averages between \$.01 and \$.015 per lunch when averaged over the entire year.

Nevada

The state of Nevada does not have a mandate that schools serve breakfast or lunch, nor does not provide an additional reimbursement for school meals.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire has no mandate beyond “public schools must provide a nutritious meal.” The state recently passed legislation that provides \$.03 for every breakfast meal to schools who participate in NSLP and have an approved wellness policy in place.

New Jersey

Any public school with 5% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals must offer a lunch program that meets USDA standards, and they must offer free and reduced price meals to those that qualify. The program does not have to be NSLP. Public schools with 20% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals must implement the SBP. Since 2007, schools are required to adopt a local nutrition policy and a wellness policy that is consistent with the New Jersey Model School Nutrition Policy. New Jersey no longer provides additional reimbursement for breakfast and reduced support for lunch programs due to budget constraints.

New Mexico

There is no state mandate for either school lunch or breakfast in New Mexico. However, the state of New Mexico provides an appropriation for the Elementary Breakfast Program for schools in which 85% or more of the enrolled students at the school are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Elementary schools meeting the 85% criteria,

shall establish a breakfast after the bell program unless the school is granted a waiver by the state agency. Under this state funded program, breakfast is provided free of charge to all children regardless of income.

New York

New York has no mandate on participation for the school lunch program. Breakfast is mandated for schools at the elementary level (K-6), and middle and high schools with severe need status. Schools can obtain waivers from the breakfast mandate. The State provides the following reimbursement: for lunch, NY provides \$.0599 for each paid meal, \$.1981 for reduced price, and \$.0599 for free meals. For breakfast, the rate is \$.0023 for paid, \$.1566 for reduced and \$.1013 for free.

North Carolina

There is a State Board of Education Policy that requires all public schools (not including Charter Schools) to participate in the NSLP, but there is no mandate for breakfast. The state provides no additional funds for lunch, but it uses a portion of the required state revenue match to provide free breakfast to elementary students that qualify for reduced price meals for schools that participate in the program.

North Dakota

North Dakota has no meals mandate nor does it provide additional reimbursements.

Ohio

In Ohio, there is no school lunch mandate and school breakfast is required in schools where at least 20% of the students are eligible for free or reduced meals, or where 50% or more of the students' parents have requested the SBP. Ohio does provide additional reimbursements.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma does not mandate school meals. Beyond the state match requirement, Oklahoma's legislature approves an appropriation each year to reimburse school lunches. The amount of the appropriation varies from year to year.

Oregon

Oregon does not have a state mandate for serving lunch. The State does require participation in the SBP if 25% or more students are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. Oregon does not provide per meal reimbursement for breakfast and/or lunch.

Pennsylvania

There are no mandates requiring schools to provide lunches or breakfasts. Pennsylvania provides additional support for lunch to schools that do provide breakfast. For breakfast, the state provides \$.10 per meal served. For lunch, if a school does not provide breakfast, it receives \$.10, for breakfast provided to less than 20% of students the rate is \$.12 and for breakfast served to more than 20% the rate increases to \$.14.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island does mandate participation in the NSLP or SBP. It does not provide additional funds.

South Carolina

South Carolina requires all schools to offer a lunch and participate in the SBP. The state does not provide additional per meal reimbursements.

South Dakota

South Dakota has no meal mandates and has no additional state reimbursement.

Tennessee

Tennessee mandates that all school districts provide a school lunch program, but not necessarily NLSP. Breakfast is mandated in K-8 schools with 25% free or reduced price students, as well as schools that do not contain grades K-8 and are 40% free or reduced. Tennessee does not offer additional reimbursement.

Texas

Texas has no mandate for lunch. Beginning in 2014, schools with 80% or more of the students are eligible for a free or reduced-price meal must offer a free breakfast to all students. Texas does mandate that schools with 50% of NSLP participants receiving free or reduced lunch must offer a summer meal program. Schools that serve over 60% free and reduced meals receive an additional \$.02 for lunch and \$.03 for breakfast.

Utah

Utah has no meal mandates. It uses proceeds from its liquor tax (proceeds vary from year to year) to reimburse lunches.

Vermont

Vermont requires participation by every school district in the NSLP and SBP, unless the school board votes to exempt the district. If the district is exempt, the school board must vote on this issue every year. Vermont has eliminated the reduced price category by providing the \$.40 to cover costs for lunch and \$.30 breakfast (as of 2013).

Virginia

There is no state mandate for schools to participate in the NSLP. Participation in the SBP is required in any public school in which 25% or more of enrolled school-age children were approved eligible to receive free or reduced price meals in the federally funded lunch program during the previous school year. Virginia has a state breakfast incentive funding program for new breakfast participation where the states provides a reimbursement of \$0.20 for each breakfast served in excess of each school division's established baseline per student breakfast meal participation rates.

Washington State

School districts must implement any school lunch program where 25% or more of the enrolled students in schools with any grades from K-4 qualify for free or reduced. Breakfast is mandated for public schools with more than 40% qualifying for free or reduced price meals. Summer food service is mandated in each public school where a summer program of academic, enrichment, or remedial services are provided and in which 50% or more of the students enrolled qualify for free or reduced price lunch. The State covers the price of reduced price meals for qualifying students in all grades for breakfast and for students in grades K – 3 for lunch.

West Virginia

There is no lunch mandate in West Virginia, but all schools must provide breakfast. There is not an additional state reimbursement for school meals served. In 2013, West Virginia passed the “Feed to Achieve” Act with the goal of providing universal free meals to all students. The funding structure is still under construction.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin does not have meal mandates. It does provide an additional \$.15 for breakfast.

Wyoming

Wyoming does not have school meal mandates for either lunch or breakfast. The state does provide a per meal subsidy for both lunch and breakfast meals to those school districts that have a deficit in their food service operations.

Reference for Meal Mandates and Reimbursements

Please note that while some states mandate a meal program, not all require the program to be the NSLP or the SBP.

State	Lunch Mandate?	Breakfast Mandate?	Lunch Reimbursement	Breakfast Reimbursement	Other Reimbursement
Alabama	No	No	No	No	100% benefits
Alaska	No	No	No	No	State Formula that can be used towards school meal programs.
Arizona	NSLP for K-8.	No	No	No	Operation of school nutrition programs.
Arkansas	No	SBP if 20% F/R.	No	No	\$1 million grant for breakfast expansion.
California	*See State Summary	Breakfast in Severe Need Schools.	\$.16		Additional grants for breakfast/summer expansion.
Colorado	No	Must serve <i>free</i> breakfast if 80% f/r.	\$.40 for reduced price meals, K-2.	\$.30 for reduced price meals.	
Connecticut	No	SBP if over 80% f/r.	\$.10 to schools that serve NSLP.	Average of \$.045.	
Delaware	No	No	No	No	State covers up to 70% of SFAs salary.
Florida	Yes	SBP in elementary if offering NSLP.	No	No	Covers inspection costs for schools offering NSLP.
Georgia	Yes	Yes, K-8 if over 25% f/r.	No	No	Assists with salary and benefits of SFAs.
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	No	No	Operation of school nutrition programs.
Idaho	No	No	No	No	Assists with FICA taxes for SFAs.
Illinois	No	Yes, if 40% f/r.	\$.05	\$.05	
Indiana	No	SBP if 15% f/r.	No	No	
Iowa	Yes	No	\$.04	\$.03	

State	Lunch Mandate?	Breakfast Mandate?	Lunch Reimbursement	Breakfast Reimbursement	Other Reimbursement
Kansas	No	Yes, if 35% f/r.	\$.05	No	
Kentucky	No	No	No	No	
Louisiana	NSLP	SBP if 25% f/r.	No	No	Operation of school nutrition programs.
Maine	NSLP, K-8	No	\$.05	\$.30 for reduced price meals.	Covers \$1 for every \$3 spent on local produce and capped at \$1000 per district.
Maryland	Yes	Yes	No	\$.30 for reduced price.	See state summary for breakdown of additional reimbursement.
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes, if 20% f/r.	No	See state summary for rates based on f/r.	
Michigan	Yes	Yes, if 20% f/r.	No	No	Operation of a school nutrition program.
Minnesota	No	Yes, if 33% f/r.	\$.125	\$.30 for reduced price; \$.55 for paid.	\$.20 for kindergarten milk program.
Mississippi	No	No	No	No	
Missouri	No	Yes, if 35% f/r.	No	No	
Montana	No	No	No	No	
Nebraska	No	No	\$.01-\$.015	\$.05	
Nevada	No	No	No	No	
New Hampshire	Yes	No	No	\$.03 if serving NSLP & Wellness Policy.	
New Jersey	Yes, if 5% f/r.	SBP if 20% f/r.	No	No	
New Mexico	No	No	No	Pays breakfast costs if 85% f/r.	
New York	No	Yes, K-6 & severe need middle & secondary schools.	\$.0599 paid, \$.1981 reduced, & \$.0599 free.	\$.0023 for paid, \$.1566 for reduced and \$.1013 for free.	

State	Lunch Mandate?	Breakfast Mandate?	Lunch Reimbursement	Breakfast Reimbursement	Other Reimbursement
North Carolina	NSLP	No	No	\$.30 for reduced meals.	
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	
Ohio	No	Yes, if 20% f/r.	No	No	
Oklahoma	No	No	Varies	Varies	
Oregon	No	SBP if 25% f/r.	No	No	
Pennsylvania	No	No	Please see state summary for all information.	\$.10	
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No	
South Carolina	Yes	SBP	No	No	
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	
Tennessee	Yes	Yes, K-8 if 25% f/r.	No	No	
Texas	No	Yes, <i>free</i> if over 80% f/r.	\$.02 if over 60% f/r.	\$.03 if over 60% f/r.	
Utah	No	No	Uses proceeds from liquor tax.	No	
Vermont	NSLP	SBP	\$.40 for reduced price.	\$.30 for reduced price.	
Virginia	No	SBP if 25% f/r.	No	\$.20 in certain cases.	
Washington	Yes, if 25% f/r.	Yes, if 40% f/r.	\$.40 for reduced price for K-3.	\$.30 for reduced price.	
West Virginia	No	SBP	No	No	Please see summary for information on "Feed to Achieve".
Wisconsin	No	No	No	\$.15	
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	Operation of a school nutrition program.

Totals:

With A *Lunch* Mandate: 18

- NSLP Mandate: 5

With A *Breakfast* Mandate: 26

- SBP Mandate: 11