

ARKANSAS CHILD NUTRITION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) establishes the minimum national standards that schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and other federal meal programs must meet in order to obtain reimbursement. However, states can provide additional requirements and standards for school nutrition programs. Below is a snapshot of the policies for Arkansas. Also included are resources on the State legislature to assist SNA members interested in making an impact as the State crafts future policies. More information Arkansas can be found with the [State agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2013, Arkansas enacted a bill encouraging school breakfast programs.
- There were no bills introduced in 2014.
- Two bills to alter the structure of the fund entitled “national school lunch state category” were introduced, but did not move beyond committees in both Chambers.

School Meal Policies

- Arkansas does not mandate NSLP, but does require SBP if a school has 20% free/reduced.
- The state does not provide additional per meal reimbursement.
- Arkansas adopted [nutrition standards](#) in 2012.
- A [2005 rule](#) provides guidance for hiring of school nutritional professionals and guidance on adequate time to eat.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- Arkansas allows fundraisers that do not comply with Smart Snacks on nine school days across all grades.

Farm to School

- Arkansas does not have a Farm to School policy.

The Arkansas General Assembly.

- In even years, the General Assembly meets for fiscal matters. In odd years, it will meet for a regular session.
- The rules for lobbying in Arkansas can be found [here](#).

*For more information on state and national policies, contact SNA's Government Affairs and Media Relations Center.
As of 8/18/2015*