

## CALIFORNIA 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 California. 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 on California can be found with the [State Agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

### Current and Recent Legislation

- The California legislature routinely debates various child nutrition bills including adequate time to eat, funding for cafeterias, local produce, nutrition standards such as providing gluten free meals and more. Please visit the SNA website for a more detailed list.
- In 2015, the legislature took up bills on Breakfast in the Classroom, promoting local produce, funding, and providing water to students.

### School Meal Policies

- California requires all public schools to provide one meal for all free/reduced students, but it does not have to be NSLP. It requires SBP in severe needs schools.
- The state does provide an additional \$.28 per lunch and breakfast served as well as additional grants for summer feeding programs.
- California first required nutrition education in 1977 with several rules updates since.

### Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- All food based fundraisers in California must be Smart Snacks compliant.

### Farm to School

- The State's policy can be found [here](#).

### The California Legislature

- Information on the California legislature can be found [here](#).
- The rules for lobbying in California can be found [here](#).

*For more information on state and national policies, contact SNA's Government Affairs and Media Relations Center.  
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