

COLORADO 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 Colorado. 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 Colorado can be found with the [State agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2013, Colorado passed legislation establishing Breakfast After the Bell and a Farm to School task force. A bill to amend the 2013 breakfast legislation was offered in 2015, but did not move forward.
- In 2014, Colorado expanded covering the \$.40 co pay for reduced price lunch up to Grade 5 and increased the funding for the program in 2015.

School Meal Policies

- Colorado does not mandate participation in a lunch program, but does require schools to serve free breakfast to all students in schools with 80% free or reduced.
- The State provides \$.40 for reduced price meals in grades K-5 as well as \$.30 for reduced price breakfasts in all grades.
- A 2009 bill requires schools to have in place mechanisms for managing food allergies.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- Each school building may have three fundraising events outside the scope of Smart Snacks.

Farm to School

- Colorado has established an interagency Farm to School Council. Details can be found [here](#).

The Colorado General Assembly

- The General Assembly meets for a yearly 120 day session.
- The rules for lobbying in Colorado 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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