

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

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2014, the Illinois House and Senate passed a resolution encouraging different breakfast delivery systems.
- A House bill to study eligibility for free and reduced meals was tabled.
- A bill to apply taxes from sweetened beverages to the Farm to School Program was taken up in 2015.
- Both Chambers took up resolutions encouraging different breakfast models in 2015.

School Meal Policies

- Illinois does not mandate participation in a lunch program, but does require the School Breakfast program in schools with 40% free and reduced.
- The state provides \$.03 per meal for lunch and breakfast.
- Since 2011, the state has had a policy for handling life threatening food based allergies.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- Illinois currently allows 9 exempt fundraisers for high schools only.

Farm to School

- Illinois has a grant program for promoting local produce in schools.

The Illinois General Assembly

- The General Assembly meets year around.
- The rules for lobbying in Illinois 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*