

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

### Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2014, Minnesota passed legislation providing free breakfast to all kindergartners and covering the cost of reduced price lunch.
- A bill allowing schools to seek funds for unpaid meals from the state government died in committee.
- In 2013, a bill mandating that schools provide meals to all students regardless of ability to pay died in committee.
- In 2015, the State is considering legislation on expanding free breakfast and increasing the per meal reimbursement for all meals.
- The State also considered increasing funds for summer meals and allowing for “angel funds” for the public to donate to for providing meals to students.

### School Meal Policies

- Minnesota does not require schools to offer lunch, but requires breakfast if over 33% free/reduced.
- The state provides \$.125 for each lunch served and \$.40 for reduced price lunches. Minnesota also covers the \$.30 for each reduced price breakfast and \$.55 for each paid breakfast.
- The State runs a program providing free milk to kindergartners.

### Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- All food based fundraisers must be Smart Snacks compliant, but schools can request a waiver.

### Farm to School

- The state agriculture department provides grants to assist local farm to school programs.

### The Minnesota Legislature

- The Legislature meets between January and the first Monday following the third Saturday in May each year, not to exceed 120 days per biennium.
- The rules for lobbying in Minnesota 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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