

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



### Current and Recent Legislation

- The legislature has introduced several bills on measuring BMI and serving low fat meals to high BMI students, but it usually does not get past the committee.
- Legislation on promoting Farm to School policies did not advance in 2015.

### School Meal Policies

- Mississippi does not mandate participation in federal school meals programs.
- The state does not provide additional per meal reimbursement.
- The state's wellness policy requires the local school board to establish a local school health council for each school.
- The state board of education requires new employees have a high school diploma and managers in food service maintain 24 hours of training each year.
- Mississippi requires schools to provide a minimum of 24 minutes for students and staff to eat lunch, and recommend 10 minutes for breakfast.

### Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

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

### Farm to School

- In 2013, the Governor signed into law a bill establishing the Farm to School Task Force.

### The Mississippi Legislature

- It meets for a yearly 90 business day session.
- The rules for lobbying in Mississippi 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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