

NEW JERSEY 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 New Jersey. 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 New Jersey can be found with the [State agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2015, the Governor signed a bill prohibiting denying students a meal if the meal account has a negative balance without parent notification.
- In 2014, New Jersey passed legislation on expanding breakfast programs and forming student advisory councils for new menus. The second bill was vetoed in 2015.
- A bill was introduced to allow New Jersey residents to contribute to farm to school programs on their state tax form.

School Meal Policies

- New Jersey does schools having a lunch program and requires participation in SBP if a school has 20% free/reduced.
- The state does not provide additional per meal reimbursement.
- Since 2005, schools must provide nutrition education.

- All schools must comply with the New Jersey Nutrition Standards, regardless if they offer NSLP or not.
- New Jersey recommends providing 20 minutes for students to consume lunch.
- As of 2008, all schools must develop an allergy plan.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

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

Farm to School

- The State Department of Agriculture runs the Farm to School Program with access to over 100 local farmers.

The New Jersey Legislature

- Meets through out the year on a two year cycle. All bills introduced during the two year cycle is considered dead if not passed by the conclusion of the second year.
- The rules for lobbying in New Jersey 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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