

NORTH CAROLINA 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 North Carolina. 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 North Carolina can be found with the [State agency](#) or



by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2013, the governor signed into law a bill denying schools from billing school nutrition programs for indirect costs if the program is running a deficit.
- A bill to increase funding for school meal programs and require central kitchens was introduced in 2015.

School Meal Policies

- North Carolina mandates schools operate the NSLP but does not mandate participation in SBP.
- The State provides \$.30 to cover the cost of reduced price breakfasts.
- In grades K-9, health classes must contain nutrition education.
- School districts must report on status of meeting goals contained in local wellness policies.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

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

Farm to School

- Since 1997, the state Agriculture Department runs the Farm to School program.

The North Carolina General Assembly

- The General Assembly meets in regular session ("long session") beginning in January of each odd-numbered year, and adjourns to reconvene the following even-numbered year for what is called the "Short Session." Though there is no limit on the length of any session, the "long session" typically lasts for 6 months and the "short session" typically lasts for 6 weeks
- The rules for lobbying in North Carolina can be found [here](#).

For more information on state and national policies, contact SNA's Government Affairs and Media Relations Center.

As of 8/19/2015