

PENNSYLVANIA 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 Pennsylvania. 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 Pennsylvania can be found with the [State agency](#) or by

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

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2013, the House adopted language to study child obesity.
- There was no legislation introduced in 2014 or 2015.

School Meal Policies

- Pennsylvania does not mandate participation in federal school meals programs.
- Pennsylvania provides additional support for lunch to schools that do provide breakfast. For breakfast, the state provides \$.10 per meal served. For lunch, if a school does not provide breakfast, it only receives \$.10, if breakfast provided to less than 20% of students the rate is \$.12, and for breakfast served to more than 20% the rate increases to \$.14.
- A 2003 law sets standards for nutrition education.
- A 2010 law sets standards for developing a food allergy policy.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- Pennsylvania established a voluntary competitive food policy in 2005
- High schools are allowed 10 fundraising events, middle and elementary schools are allowed five.

Farm to School

- “The Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Act” was passed in 2006 establishing a farm to school network and program.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly

- The General Assembly meets year round, but adjourns by November 30 during even years.
- The rules for lobbying in Pennsylvania can be found [here](#).