

## RHODE ISLAND 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 Rhode Island. 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 Rhode Island can be found with the [State agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

### Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2013, the legislature took up language on studying nutrition standards.
- In 2015, a bill to align state standards with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act was introduced in both Chambers.

### School Meal Policies

- Rhode Island does mandate a lunch program and the SBP.
- The State does not provide additional per meal reimbursement, but does provide additional funds supporting breakfast programs.
- Since 2005, Rhode Island has required each district to implement a wellness policy.
- Rhode Island has a strict food allergy policy containing requirements on posting notices and providing options.

### Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

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

### Farm to School

- There is no official state policy, but a strong network has been established.

### The Rhode Island General Assembly

- Meets yearly from January until June.
- The rules for lobbying in Rhode Island can be found [here](#).