

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

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2014, the House took up bills on equipment grants, breakfast in the classroom, and serving water at school lunch. None were passed.
- In 2015, these bills on breakfast and equipment grants were reintroduced.

School Meal Policies

- Washington mandates a lunch be served in schools with a student population of 25% free/reduced and breakfast if 40% free/reduced.
- The State covers the co-pay of \$.30 for breakfast for all grades and the \$.40 co-pay for lunch for grades K-3.
- School districts have had to include nutrition education in local wellness policies since 2004.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

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

Farm to School

- A 2008 bill established the Farm to School Program, administered by the State Department of Agriculture.

The Washington Legislature

- In odd-numbered years, the State Legislature meets for 105 days, and in even-numbered years for 60 days.
- The rules for lobbying in Washington 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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