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State School Meal Mandates and Reimbursements Report: School Year 2023-2024

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) are federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The purpose of the school nutrition programs is to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children each school day.

Each year, the USDA sets rates to cover the cost of free and reduced meals, as well as partial support for paid meals.

Each state is also required to provide a certain matching amount based on a rate set in the 1980's. Many states provide additional reimbursement on top of the matching requirement, which can range from per meal reimbursements, to salary support, to general funds which assist with program operations. It is up to each state if participation in the federal meals programs is optional or mandated, resulting in diverse circumstances.

This report is a comprehensive summary of each state's mandates and financial support with an additional reference chart. The information reflected in this document is to the best of SNA's knowledge, collected from state agencies, and is subject to change.

State	School Meal Mandates:	State Funding/Reimbursements:	Unpaid Meal Debt Policy:	Additional Legislation:
AL	Alabama does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	Alabama provides no additional state funding for meal reimbursements.	Unpaid meal debt practices are determined at the local or district level. Alabama Department of Education provides guidelines for unpaid meals. State agencies and SFAs ensure collection efforts do not have a negative impact on the child involved, and instead focus on household responsible for providing funds for meal purchases. Policies for the collection of unpaid meal charges should be included in written meal charge policy [Alabama Department of Education Memorandum].	None.
AK	Alaska does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	Alaska does not provide per meal reimbursements; however, the legislature does provide foundation formula state funds to all school districts, and the districts may choose to use some of the funds toward their school meals programs. Reimbursement is paid to sponsoring organizations	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	None.

		<p>based on the number of reimbursable meals or milk served to eligible children [Alaska Statute 14.17].</p> <p>FY23 Alaska legislature did provide \$600,000 for school breakfast grants (start-up & expansion).</p>		
AZ	<p>All K-8 schools with an enrollment of over 100 students are required to participate in NSLP. A waiver may be granted to districts with fewer than 100 students. This does not apply to charter schools [ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-242].</p>	<p>Arizona provides no additional state funding for meal reimbursements.</p>	<p>Arizona’s Department of Education provide State specific restrictions that SFAs in Arizona must adhere to when developing and implementing SFA-level written meal charge policy. This guidance has been developed in order to ensure that all students and parents are treated in a respectful manner, regardless of their economic circumstance [Arizona Department of Education Memorandum].</p>	None.
AR	<p>Arkansas does not mandate participation in the NSLP. However, Arkansas requires all schools with 20% or more of the students eligible for free and reduced meals to participate in SBP [ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-18-705].</p>	<p>The Arkansas State Legislature passed Act 656 of 2023, the new law directs the state to cover the cost of reduced-price meals for students. Starting in school year 2023-24, state funds are being used to reimburse School Food Authorities the reduced-price copay, for breakfast and lunches served to eligible reduced-price students.</p>	<p>Unpaid meal debt practices are determined at the local or district level. However, under the “Hunger-Free Students’ Bill of Rights Act”, districts are prohibited from serving an alternate meal, preventing access to meals or snacks, or taking any action that would stigmatize a student that has unpaid meal fees. Arkansas’s Department of Education requires the implementation of a system for reviewing the local practices of public school district food service programs to determine the support needed by public school districts Arkansas Code Annotated 6-18-715.</p>	None.
CA	<p>Commencing in SY 2022–23, Education Code (EC) 49501.5 requires public school districts, county offices of</p>	<p>In order for schools to receive additional state meal reimbursement to make these meals free of charge to all students, they must be a sponsor of the SBP and NSLP and comply with federal requirements and</p>	<p>Under the Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017, California prohibits school personnel and volunteers at a local educational agency</p>	None.

	<p>education, and charter schools serving students in grades TK–12 to provide two meals free of charge (breakfast and lunch) during each school day to students requesting a meal, regardless of their free or reduced-price meal eligibility. Meals must meet federal nutrition standards for the SBP and NSLP to all. On or before June 30, 2022, EC 49564.3 requires local educational agencies (LEAs) with high poverty schools to adopt a federal universal meal service provision, such as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2. A school is considered high poverty if their identified student percentage (ISP) is over 40 percent, meaning 40 percent of enrolled students are determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through direct certification, or identification as homeless, migrant, foster, or runaway.</p>	<p>regulations for operation these programs. The additional state meal reimbursement is intended to cover the difference between the free federal meal rate and paid and reduced-price meal reimbursement. This is a state investment of over one billion dollars.</p> <p>In 2021-22, California provided \$150 million dollars in Kitchen Infrastructure and Training Grants to support implementation of California Universal Meals and in 2022-23, the state budget included \$600 million in Kitchen Infrastructure and Training for And \$100 million for School Foods Best Practices.</p> <p>Additionally, the state provides over one million dollars in summer and breakfast start up and expansion grants to public school districts, county offices of education, and directly funded charter school grants of up to \$15,000 per school site (up to 10 sites) for nonrecurring expenses incurred in initiating or expanding a school breakfast program under this section or a federal summer meals program, including the summer food service program [CAL. EDUC. CODE § 49547]</p>	<p>from allowing any disciplinary action that is taken against a pupil to result in the denial or delay of a nutritionally adequate meal to that pupil due to unpaid meal debt. This law requires a local educational agency to notify a parent or guardian of the negative balance of a pupil’s school meal account no later than 10 days after the pupil’s school meal account has reached a negative balance [CAL. EDUC. CODE § 49557.5].</p>	
<p>CO</p>	<p>Colorado does not mandate participation in NSLP. Public schools participating in the NSLP with 70% or more</p>	<p>Colorado established the Start Smart Nutrition Program which provides reimbursements of \$0.30 as the co-pay for a reduced breakfast for all Pre-K-12 students. In addition, Colorado provides \$0.40</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>Seat Time Requirements: Each school district board of education is encouraged to adopt policies ensuring that</p>

	<p>students eligible for free/reduced price meals in the prior school year must provide breakfast after the bell free of charge to all students [COLO. REV. STAT § 22-82.8].</p>	<p>through the Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program to cover the co-pay for reduced lunch for grades Pre-K-12 through the Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program [COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-82.7-105].</p> <p>Colorado established the Healthy School Meals for All Program: SFAs must opt-in annually, eligible SFAs are public school districts and charter SFAs. SFAs may not charge any student for breakfast or lunch. Breakfasts and lunches continue to be counted and claimed based on student eligibility (free, reduced, or paid). Sites participating in the Community Eligibility Provision do not need to count and claim meals by eligibility, and can tally total breakfast and lunches served. The CDE School Nutrition claim system automatically reimburses participating eligible sites the difference between the federal free and federal paid reimbursement rate. The base federal rate will be used for this calculation across all sponsors, regardless of severe need qualification.</p>		<p>every student has access to healthy food choices throughout the school day. This includes the provision of healthful meals in the school cafeteria made available to students with an adequate time to eat [CO. REV. STAT. § 22-32-136].</p>
<p>CT</p>	<p>Connecticut does not mandate participation in the NSLP. However, any K-8 school in which 80% of the lunches served are free or reduced-price meals, that school must offer SBP [CT. GEN. STAT. Chap 172, Sec. 10-266w].</p>	<p>Within available funds, the state provides an annual grant of \$2,894, and up to \$0.10 per breakfast served, to all schools in which 20 percent or more of lunches served in the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price [CONN. GEN. STAT. Chap. 172, Sec. 10-266w].</p> <p>The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.10 per lunch served in the preceding school year to school districts that meet optional state nutrition standards [CONN. GEN. STAT. Chap. 169, Sec. 10-215b].</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>Seat Time Requirements: Each local and regional board of education shall require each school under its jurisdiction to offer all full-day students a daily lunch period of not less than twenty minutes. [CT. GEN. STAT. Chap. 170, sec. 10-221o] The Child Nutrition Outreach Program requires the state</p>

		<p>The state allocated \$16 million to temporarily provide free school meals to all students [H.B. 6941].</p>		<p>agency to administer an outreach program to increase participation in the SBP and other child nutrition programs/ The state agency must encourage schools to participate in SBP, use innovative breakfast service methods, where students eat their breakfast in their classrooms or elsewhere after school starts, rather than only before school and only in the cafeteria; and apply to the in-classroom breakfast grant program [CT. GEN. STAT. Chap. 169, sec.10-215h].</p>
<p>D.C.</p>	<p>All public schools and public charter schools are required to offer free breakfast to all students. All schools with 40% or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to implement alternative breakfast serving models. Elementary schools must provide breakfast in the classroom. A one-year BIC waiver may be granted if the school submits an action plan detailing a strategy to utilize an alternative breakfast serving model that will enable</p>	<p>The Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018 provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.40 for lunch and an additional reimbursement of \$0.20 per breakfast and \$.10 per lunch that meet the requirements of the Healthy Schools Act of 2010. The district provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.05 per lunch each day when at least one component is comprised of locally grown, unprocessed foods in either breakfast or lunch. Any public school implementing an approved alternative breakfast model will receive an annual subsidy of \$2 per student per year starting in 2020 [D.C. Code § 38-821.01 et seq. Sec. 102].</p>	<p>No formal policy, practices are decided at the local level.</p>	<p>Seat time Requirements: The Healthy Schools Act of 2018 requires schools provide students with at least 30 minutes to eat [D.C. Code § 38-822.03b].</p>

	the school to reach the 75% breakfast participation rate's [D.C. Code § 38-821.01 et seq. Sec. 203].			
DE	Delaware does not mandate participation in the NSLP or SBP. However, after 2017, all CEP schools are required to serve an alternative service model for breakfast [14 Del. Laws, C. § 4137].	Delaware does not provide a per meal reimbursement for breakfast or lunch but does provide up to 70% of SFAs staff salaries [14 Del. Laws, C. § 1322].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	If a child would qualify for a no- or low-cost breakfast or lunch under a federal national school breakfast or lunch program, the charter school shall provide breakfast and lunch to the child at no or low cost to the child's family [14 Del. Laws, C. § 506f].
FL	Florida does not mandate participation in the NSLP. Each district school board shall implement school breakfast programs that make breakfast meals available to all students in each school that serves any combination of grades kindergarten through 5 th . All schools with a student population of 80% or more certified for free or reduced-price meals are required to offer free breakfast to all students. Schools may apply for a waiver but only after public testimony concerning the proposed policy at two or more school board meetings [FLA. STAT. § 595.405].	Under the General Appropriations Act, Florida allocates annual funding to supplement school breakfast programs. The funding is based on each school district's number of free and reduced-price meals served [FLA. STAT. § 595.404].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	Each district school board shall annually provide information prepared by the district's food service administration regarding available school breakfast programs. The information shall be communicated through school announcements and notices sent to all parents [FLA. STAT. § 595.405].

GA	<p>Georgia requires all public schools to participate in NSLP [GA State Bd. Of Ed. EE 160-5-6-01].</p> <p>Georgia mandates that all K-8 schools must establish and support the SBP if at least 25% of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. In all other grades, the SBP is required if at least 40% of the student population receives free or reduced meals [GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-66].</p>	<p>Georgia provides funding to supplement base salary assistance for full-time school lunch staff; two sick days' pay assistance for school lunch staff; and a manager's supplement [GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-187].</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>None.</p>
GU	<p>Guam does not mandate participation in the federal school meals program</p>	<p>Guam does not provide additional state funding for reimbursements</p>	<p>Unpaid meal debt practices are at the Local or SFA Level.</p>	<p>None</p>
HI	<p>School meals shall be made available under the school meals program (NSLP, SBP) in every school where students are required to eat meals at school [HAW. REV. STAT. §302A-404].</p>	<p>Public school meals are paid for by the NSLP and revenue collected through paid meals. The remainder is paid through state funds that are budgeted to subsidize the remaining portion of the school meals [HAW. REV. STAT. §302A-405].</p>	<p>School districts may not deny meals to students with insufficient funds during the first 21 days of school. Following the first 21 days of school, school districts must provide at least a seven-day grace period to students that cannot pay for school meals [SB 423, HAW. REV. STAT. §302A-404].</p>	<p>None.</p>
ID	<p>Idaho does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.</p>	<p>33-1015. STATE REVENUE MATCHING UNDER THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT. In school districts where personnel are employed to operate a school lunch program partially funded under provisions of the national school lunch act, all employer paid contributions to the social security administration for school lunch personnel shall be paid from funds received by school districts from the state general</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>None.</p>

		account appropriation for public school support. [IDAHO CODE § 33-1015].		
IL	Illinois does not mandate participation in the NSLP or SBP but requires all schools to provide free meals to students that are certified [23 ILL. ADMIN. CODE § 3-5.10]. All schools with 40% or more free or reduced-price eligible students are required to participate in the SBP. School districts may apply for a waiver [105 ILCS. § 126/15]. All schools with 70% or more free and reduced-price eligible students must offer a breakfast after the bell meal service option [105 ILCS. § 126/16].	The state authorized an additional reimbursement of \$0.15 per free breakfast and lunch served. The amount appropriated has been reduced in recent years due to limited state funding. Schools received \$0.04 per free meal served in school year 2018–2019 [105 ILL. COMP. STAT. §§ 125/2 and 125/6].	The Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act requires every school to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks. If a student owes money for meals or snacks that is in excess of the equivalent of the amount charged a student for 5 lunches, or a lower amount. A school may not publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a meal or snack or who owes money for a meal or snack [ILL. GEN Public Act 100-1092].	None.
IN	Indiana does not mandate participation in NLSP. However, a school with a student population that is 15% or more eligible for free or reduced meals, it must participate in the SBP [IND. CODE §§ 20-26-9-2 and 13].	Indiana does not provide additional state reimbursement.	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	None.
IA	Iowa requires all public schools to provide lunch that meets the nutrition standards for the NSLP for students that attend public school for four hours or more and would like	Iowa appropriates funds to provide an additional reimbursement for each breakfast or lunch served between July 1st and May 31st of each year. During 2022-23, schools received an additional \$0.029 per meal approximately [IOWA CODE §283A.2].	Prohibits schools from publicly stigmatizing students that cannot pay for a meal and also encourages all schools to provide reimbursable meals to those students that cannot pay. [IOWA CODE §8A.504 , IOWA CODE §283A.11]	None.

	to participate [IOWA CODE §283A.2].			
KS	Kansas does not mandate participation in NSLP. However, it does require that schools offer breakfast if 35% or more students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. A waiver may be granted for schools with less than 35% of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals [KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-17,145]	Kansas provides additional reimbursements of \$.04 per lunch as part of the federally required state match [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	None.
KY	Kentucky does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	Kentucky does not provide additional state reimbursements.	Schools may not have physical segregation or other discrimination against any child because of inability to pay the full cost of a meal [702 KY. ADMIN. REG. § 6:050]	All school districts shall arrange bus schedules so that all buses arrive in sufficient time to provide breakfast prior to the beginning of the student attendance day [KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.070-10]. Seat Time Requirements: The school lunch period, if a part of a closed schedule, shall allow adequate time for each child to take care of his personal hygiene and enjoy a complete meal in an educational setting and the school breakfast period shall be a part of the school day that also allows adequate time for each child to enjoy a

				<p>complete breakfast [702 KY. Admin Regs. 6:060].</p> <p>Permits the administrator of a school that participates in the Federal School Breakfast Program to authorize up to 15 minutes of the student attendance day to provide the opportunity for children to eat breakfast during instructional time. [22RS SB 151 (ky.gov)].</p>
LA	<p>Louisiana requires all public schools to operate NSLP and requires schools with at least 25% eligible for free and reduced-price meals to operate SBP. A waiver may be granted if it can be demonstrated that at least 50% of the free and reduced-price eligible students refuse to participate in the breakfast program [LA. STAT. ANN. §17:192].</p>	<p>Louisiana does not provide additional state reimbursements.</p>	<p>If the governing authority of a public school district adopts a policy of denying a scheduled meal to a child who is an elementary school student, it shall implement the following procedures to provide for safeguards to the child's health and the child's ability to learn:) Provide actual notification to the child's parent or legal guardian as to the date and time after which meals may be denied, Verify with appropriate school staff that the child does not have an Individual Education Plan that requires the child to receive meals provided by the school to ensure that neither the child's health nor learning ability will be negatively affected by denying the child</p>	<p>None.</p>

			meals during school hours [LA. STAT. ANN. §17:192.1].	
ME	<p>Maine mandates that public schools must participate in NSLP. Secondary schools may request waivers. All public schools in which at least 50% of students qualified for free or reduced-price lunches shall operate a federal summer food service program during the following summer vacation if that public school operates a summer educational or recreational program. The school is required to operate the federal summer food service program only on days that the public school operates the summer educational or recreational program. A school may collaborate with a service institution to operate federal summer food service program. [20-A ME. REV. STAT. ANN. § 6602]</p>	<p>Requires the State to pay the difference between the federal requirement for a free breakfast or lunch and the full price for a breakfast or lunch at no cost to the students who are ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals.</p>	<p>A public school that provides free and reduced-price meals or other meals to students or otherwise provides to students meals eligible for reimbursement under a federal program shall provide a meal to any student who requests the meal and is otherwise eligible for the meal regardless of the student's inability to pay for the school meal or failure in the past to pay for school meals. A public school may not throw away a meal after it has been served to the student, undertake chores or work as a means of paying for one or more meals or as punishment for not paying for one or more meals; refuse a meal to a student as a form of or as part of disciplinary action due to a student's inability to pay for a meal or make payments for meals served previously to the student [20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 11]</p>	None.
MD	<p>The State Board shall require each county board to provide in each elementary school a free and reduced-price breakfast, meals shall meet the standards of the USDA,</p>	<p>The Maryland Meals for Achievement in Classroom Breakfast Program is funded by the state legislature and in participating schools, no child pays for breakfast. Those schools with a least 40% of students eligible for federal free or reduced price</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	None.

	<p>unless the school is exempted for having 15% or less certified students [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. § 7-701 and 7-702]. All public schools are required to operate a free and reduced-price lunch program [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. 7-601].</p>	<p>meals may apply to receive funding [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. § 7-704].</p> <p>The State Free Feeding Program provides the money to cover subsidized and free feeding programs meaning, Maryland provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee for school breakfast and lunch over a four-year period. [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. § 7-602]. Starting in 2019, Maryland will increase its coverage by \$0.10 per year until breakfast (\$0.30) and lunch (\$0.40) fees are completely covered by 2022 [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. § 7-602 (2018)].</p>		
MA	<p>Effective 7/1/23 and permanent moving forward, all schools serving lunch through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs (NSLP and SBP) must offer meals free of charge to families. State reimbursement is available to supplement federal per meal rates to reimburse all lunches and breakfasts at the federal "free" per meal rate. All schools serving lunch through the National School Lunch Program must also serve breakfast through the School Breakfast Program and both meals offered at no charge to families. All public schools that have 40% or more of students certified for free or reduced-price meals receive</p>	<p>For the new universal free school meals, state reimbursement is available to supplement federal per meal rates to reimburse all lunches and breakfasts at the federal "free" per meal rate.</p> <p>For all schools, Massachusetts reimburses schools \$0.05 of per lunch served.</p> <p>Severe need schools are eligible for up to an additional \$0.095 for breakfast costs that exceed Federal Severe Need Reimbursement.</p> <p>Additional state breakfast reimbursement (approx. \$0.15 per breakfast) is available for schools that have at least 60% of their student population qualified for free and reduced price and offer breakfast at no charge after the instructional day has begun and after the tardy bell rings [69 MASS. GEN. LAWS § 1C].</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issued guidance: each year unpaid meal balances on the nonprofit school lunch account must be paid off using nonfederal funds no later than 6/30. School districts must still collect outstanding debt from households and can either deposit funds collected after June in nonfederal accounts or contribute towards nonprofits school food service account. All students [MASS. DESE. B.S. 256, Sec 5-7].</p>	<p>Breakfast after the bell mandate still applicable.</p>

	<p>additional state reimbursement for breakfast. To maximize federal revenue, all schools must continue to approve NSLP applications, conduct direct certification and be approved for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) if eligible [69 MASS. GEN. LAWS § 1C].</p>			
<p>MI</p>	<p>All Michigan public schools' grades K-12 are required to participate in NSLP. In schools with 20% or more students eligible for free or reduced meals are required to participate in the SBP. Any school not required to participate must hold an annual public hearing to determine participate. School districts may also apply for a waiver [MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1272a].</p>	<p>Michigan provides state funding to assist schools in the operation of the NSLP. Payments are made to provide each school district with up to 6.0127% of the necessary costs of operating the NSLP. Schools that are not required to participate in the NSLP are paid up to \$10.00 per student federally eligible for meals. Michigan also provides an additional reimbursement to cover costs for the providing breakfast. A per-meal rate equal to the difference between a district's reported costs and revenues up to the statewide average cost of serving breakfast [MI HB 5291, Sec. 31d. 2016]. In addition, Michigan provides \$0.05 per free lunch served and \$0.02 per reduced-price lunch served [MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1272d]. The 10 Cents a Meal For School Kids and Farms provides funding for Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes that satisfy the requirements for reimbursements shall be made in an amount not to exceed \$0.10 for every school meal that is served as part of the USDA's child nutrition programs and that uses Michigan-grown produce [MICH. ACT No. 265.31j].</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>None.</p>

		In FY24, Michigan also offers an additional reimbursement to public schools that choose to offer one breakfast and one lunch at no cost to children/families. CEP qualifying districts and buildings must participate in CEP to participate in the free meals and all sponsors must have paid off all unpaid meal debt. Meals will be reimbursed at the federal free rate minus federal reimbursement and state supplemental lunch payments.		
MN	Minnesota does not mandate participation in the NSLP or SBP. However, the state does require that any school participating in the NSLP, must offer a school breakfast program in every school building in which at least 33% of the school lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price [MINN. STAT. § 124D.117].	<p>Each school year, the state must pay participants in the national school lunch program the amount of \$0.12 for each full paid and free student lunch and \$0.52 for each reduced-price lunch served to students [MINN. STAT. § 124D.111].</p> <p>Each school year, the state must reimburse each participating school \$0.30 for each reduced-price breakfast, \$0.55 for each fully paid breakfast served to students in grades 1st to 12th, and \$1.30 for each fully paid breakfast served to a prekindergarten student enrolled in an approved voluntary prekindergarten program [MINN. STAT. § 124D.1158].</p> <p>Minnesota will provide free school breakfast and lunch for all students in all participating schools, regardless of their family income. Investment estimated to be \$200 million and is included in governor’s budget. Effective school year 2023-2024 [House File 5, Senate File 123].</p>	Schools using NSLP must have a school meal debt policy that prohibits lunch shaming practices, posted on their website. Any student eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch must be served a reimbursable meal, and meals given to a student cannot be taken away, regardless of accrued debt. [MINN. STAT. § 124D.111].	None.
MS	Mississippi does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	Mississippi provides no additional state funding for meal reimbursements.	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	Seat Time Requirements: Schools shall schedule a minimum of 24 minutes to

				<p>ensure an adequate eating time for school lunch. Since school breakfast is not factored into the regular school day, schools should take into consideration the recommended time of 10 minutes for a child to eat school breakfast after they have received the meal [MS. Title 7, Part 3, Chap. 38. § 38.11. j].</p> <p>No food items will be sold on the school campus for one (1) hour before the start of any meal services period.</p> <p>With the exception of water and dairy products, a student may purchase individual components of the meal only if the full meal unit also is being purchased.</p>
MO	<p>Missouri does not mandate participation in the NSLP. However, all public schools with 35% or more free and reduced-price certified students during the previous school year, are required to participate in the SBP. A school shall receive a waiver from the requirements if the</p>	<p>The Hardship Grant Program provides state supplemental funding for the SBP. Hardship grants are awarded to schools based on the highest need factor. Any school that participates, or is eligible to participate, in the federal SBP may apply. The combined amount received by a school from the federal SBP and the hardship grant shall not exceed the cost of the actual operation of the school breakfast program [MO. REV. STAT. ANN. § 191.805].</p>	<p>Missouri uses Federal guidance on unpaid meal charges and requires that each school have a paid lunch policy.</p>	<p>Agencies responsible for administering emergency and supplemental food programs shall collaborate in designing and implementing outreach programs focused on populations at risk of hunger, that effectively describe the programs, their purposes and how to apply for them.</p>

	school board of the school district by majority vote adopts a resolution requesting a waiver [MO. REV. STAT. § 191.803].			Programs include food stamps, school breakfast, summer food service programs and the special supplemental food program for women, infants and children. [MO. REV. STAT. § 191.813]
MP	The CNMI does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	The CNMI provides no additional state funding for meal reimbursements.	All public school students are served meals free of charge. There is no formal statewide policy, and practices are decided at the local level for private schools.	None.
MT	Montana does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	Montana does not provide additional state reimbursements.	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	None.
NE	Nebraska does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	The Nebraska Department of Education shall reimburse each qualified public school in Nebraska a portion of the cost of such school's SBP in the amount of \$0.05 per school breakfast served by such school in the second preceding school year. To qualify, a school district shall operate a school lunch program and shall submit information regarding the number of breakfasts. The Legislature shall appropriate money from the General Fund to carry out this section [NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-10, 138]. To encourage participation in the Summer Food Service Program, Nebraska offers award grants of up to \$15,000 on a competitive basis to approved sponsors. Grants may be used for nonrecurring expenses incurred in initiating or expanding services under the Summer Food Service Program [NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-10. 141].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	Each year, Nebraska shall collect data regarding the number of sponsors, the number of sites utilized by sponsors, and the number of children served as a result of the grants provided for the Summer Food Service Program. The department shall submit a report electronically to the Education Committee of the Legislature on this data not later than December 1 st of each year [NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-10. 142].

<p>NV</p>	<p>All schools with 70 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to offer breakfast after the bell. Nevada has allocated \$2 million for startup grants over the first two years of implementation to support schools executing breakfast after the bell programs [N.V. SB 503, 2015].</p>	<p>The state provides free school meals to all students at schools operating under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2022-2023 school year. \$75 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds were allocated to cover the cost of school meals for students who would now be required to pay the reduced or full price for a meal.</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>Seat Time Requirements: The Nevada School Wellness Policy requires each school district to provide at least 15 minutes for each student to consume the breakfast meal (Proving the schools offer breakfast); and provide at least 20 minutes for each student to consume the lunch meal [Nevada School Wellness Policy].</p>
<p>NH</p>	<p>All schools are required to make a meal available to every student during school hours. Schools must also provide free and reduced-price meals to any “needy” children. A waiver may be granted by the school board [N.H. REV. STAT. § 189.11-A].</p> <p>If a school nutrition/food service director is employed, each food service director shall, whenever feasible, obtain certification or credentials from an approved program, including but not limited to School Nutrition Association (SNA) certification, within the first 5 years of employment.</p>	<p>If schools that provide breakfast meet or exceed the USDA's child nutrition criteria, then these schools may apply for and receive an additional \$0.03 reimbursement for each breakfast meal, in turn, the state will provide an additional \$0.27 reimbursement for each meal served. Therefore New Hampshire provides state funding to eliminate the reduced-price category for breakfast (\$0.30) [N.H. REV. STAT. § 189.11-A, N.H. SB 82-FN].</p>	<p>A school lunch meal payment policy which is implemented by a school board either before or after the effective date of this section shall ensure that all students have access to a healthy school lunch, that the school district will make every reasonable effort to inform parents of the policy, and that no student will be subject to different treatment from the standard school lunch meal or school cafeteria procedures. The department of education or the state board of education, upon request of the local school board, may provide communication assistance to school districts and parents of school children regarding the school lunch meal payment policy [N.H. REV. STAT. § 189.11-A].</p>	<p>Seat time Requirements: Students shall be provided with an adequate time to consume meals in each elementary school. Students shall be provided with an adequate time to consume meals in each middle and high school [Public Law 108-26, Ed. 306.11 (d), (e)].</p>

<p>NJ</p>	<p>New Jersey mandates that all public schools with 5% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals must offer a lunch program that meets USDA standards, and they must offer free and reduced-price meals to those that qualify. The program does not have to be NSLP [N.J STAT. ANN. § 18A:33-4]. All public schools with 20% or more certified students for free or reduced-price meals are required to participate in SBP. A waiver may be granted to schools that lack sufficient resources or facilities [N.J STAT. ANN. § 18A:33-10]. All public schools with 70% or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to offer a Breakfast After the Bell program starting in 2019. School districts that qualify for the program must provide an implementation plan or may apply for a waiver [N.J STAT. ANN. § C.18A:33-11.2 to 18A:33-11.6].</p>	<p>New Jersey provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.07 per free or reduced-price lunch and \$0.06 per paid lunch served [N.J DOA. Form No. 163, Aug. 2023].</p> <p>Each student enrolled in a public or charter school who is federally ineligible for free or reduced price meals, but who has an annual household income that is not less than 186 percent, and not more than 199 percent, of the federal poverty level receives a breakfast and lunch meal free of charge. The State of New Jersey provides participating schools the difference between the USDA federal free rate of reimbursement and the USDA paid rate of reimbursement for eligible students. (N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4).</p> <p>All public schools that do not participate in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) but are eligible must report reasons for not participating to USDA [N.J STAT. ANN. § 18A:14.1].</p> <p>School Districts with 50% or more students eligible for free/reduced meals shall participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) unless waiver is granted [N.J STAT. ANN. § 18A:33-24].</p> <p>All public and nonpublic school districts participating in the federal school breakfast program which provide “breakfast after the bell” receive a 10-cent per breakfast state supplement to the existing federal reimbursement. (N.J. Stat. § 18A:33-11.7)</p>	<p>In the event that a school district determines that a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears, the district shall contact the student's parent or guardian to provide notice of the arrearage and shall provide the parent or guardian with a period of 10 school days to pay the amount due. If the student's parent or guardian has not made full payment by the end of the 10 school days, then the district shall again contact the student's parent or guardian to provide notice of any action to be taken by the school district in response to a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill being in arrears. A school district shall report at least biannually to the Department of Agriculture the number of students who are denied school breakfast or school lunch pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a school district to deny or restrict access to school breakfast or school lunch to a student whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears. b. A school district shall not: (1) publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears, for example, by requiring that the student sit at a separate table or wear a wristband, hand stamp, or identifying mark or by</p>	<p>The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDOA) must provide encouragement for schools that participate in SMP, to expand or improve kitchen facilities to allow for producing meals that incorporate fresher, locally grown or produced farm produce. NJDOA shall establish a "New Jersey Farm to School" website to provide opportunities for farmers, distributors, and schools to create purchasing networks, to develop and refine promotional events for "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week,". In conjunction with the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), shall develop a training program with the emphasis on "Farm to School" and shall offer this program to schools and other providers [N.J STAT. ANN. § 4:10-25.2 (2013)].</p>
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The State of New Jersey pays the difference between the federal allocation for reduced price breakfasts and reduced price lunches and the total cost of the reduced price breakfasts and reduced price lunches served to eligible public school students. (N.J. Stat. § 18A:33-21.1)

All sponsors participating in the federal summer food service program and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) receive a 10-cent per meal state supplement to the existing federal reimbursement. (N.J. Stat. § 18A:33-27.5)

serving the student an alternative meal; **(2)** require a student who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears to do chores or other work to pay for the school breakfast or school lunch; or **(3)** require a student to discard a school breakfast or school lunch after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or because money is owed for previously provided meals. **(4)** prohibit an unsubsidized student, or a sibling of such a student, from attending or participating in non-fee-based extracurricular activities, field trips, or school events, from receiving grades, official transcripts, or report cards, or from graduating or attending graduation events, solely because of the student's unresolved meal debt; or **(5)** require the parent or guardian of an unsubsidized student to pay fees or costs in excess of the actual amounts owed for meals previously served to the student. **c.** If a student owes money for the equivalent of five or more school meals, a school district shall: **(1)** determine whether the student is categorically eligible or income-eligible for free or reduced price meals, by conducting a review of all available records related to the student, and by making at least two attempts, not including the initial

			<p>attempt made pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2020, c.29 (C.18A:33-21b), to contact the student's parent or guardian and have the parent or guardian fill out a school meals application; and (2) require a principal, or a person designated by the principal, to contact the parent or guardian of the unsubsidized student to offer assistance with respect to the completion of the school meals application, to determine if there are other issues in the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase a school breakfast or school lunch, and to offer any other appropriate assistance.</p>	
NM	<p>For SY 23-24, New Mexico has implemented universal free meals, in trial/rule phase as of November 2023. Rule should be coming in March or April 2024.</p>	<p>The department shall award funding to each school district that establishes a breakfast after the bell program under the provisions of this section for providing free breakfast to students on a per-meal basis at the federal maximum rate of reimbursement for educational grants awarded under the authority of the secretary. School districts and charter schools do not need to demonstrate their expenses to receive funding pursuant to this section [N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-13-13.2].</p> <p>HB 10 appropriates a \$625,000 recurring appropriation (see HB 2 page 128) and eliminates copayments of reduced price school meals for eligible students. Funding is based on a per meal basis at the difference between the federal</p>	<p>A school shall not publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt by, for example, requiring that a student wear a wristband or hand stamp or require a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt to do chores or other work to pay for meals; provided that chores or work required of all students regardless of a meal debt is permitted. A school shall direct communications about a student's meal debt to a parent or guardian and not the student. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a school from sending a student home with a letter addressed to a parent or guardian [N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-3C-5].</p>	<p>Seat Time Requirements: The student lunch period each day shall be at least 30 minutes. Lunch recess shall not be counted as part of the instructional day [Title 6, Chapter 29, part 1.9 J(6)].</p>

		free meal rate and the reduced-price copayment rate.		
NY	New York requires all elementary and secondary schools with 70% of students certified for free or reduced-price meals to establish a breakfast after the bell program. [8 N.Y. CODES. R. & REGS. § 114.1].	<p>Beginning school year 2023-2024, the State paid reimbursement rate for CEP meals increased to ensure that all CEP meals are reimbursed at an amount equal to the total free reimbursement rate [N.Y. Educ. Law § 925].</p> <p>The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.1013 per free breakfast, \$0.1566 per reduced-price breakfast, \$0.0023 per paid breakfast, \$0.0599 per paid and free lunch, and \$0.1981 per reduced-price lunch served.</p> <p>The state provides funding to eliminate the student’s reduced-price fee of \$0.25 for breakfast and lunch.</p> <p>The state provides reimbursement of all expenses exceeding revenues in the first year of breakfast implementation in a public school [8 N.Y. CODES R. & REGS. § 114.1].</p> <p>The state provides an increased State reimbursement when 30% of their lunch purchases are New York State (NYS) food products. [Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022]</p>	All public school districts and charter schools that participate in the national school lunch program or school breakfast program in which there is a school at which all pupils are not eligible to be served breakfast and lunch under CEP and Provision 2 shall develop a plan to ensure that a pupil whose parent or guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not shamed or treated differently than a pupil whose parent or guardian does not have unpaid school meal fees. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements: make every attempt to determine if a student is directly certified to be eligible for free meals, no school district shall publicly identify or stigmatize a student that unable to pay for a meal or owes a meal debt [N.Y. Educ. Law § 908].	Seat Time Requirements: Allows time spent consuming breakfast in the classroom to be considered instructional time [NY EDUC. LS. 813].
NC	The state requires all public schools to participate in NSLP, but there is no mandate for the SBP [NC G.S § 115C-264].	The state uses a portion of the required state revenue match to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast.	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	Seat Time Requirements: SFA’s are required to provide sufficient meal periods that give all students adequate time to consume breakfast

	<p>Public schools are required to provide school food services to the extent practicable [NC G.S § 115C-263].</p>	<p>School lunches will be provided at no cost to students of all grade levels who qualify for reduced-price meals in all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program in the 2022-2023 school year. [HB 103 § 7.3]</p>		<p>and lunch meals or a minimum of 15 minutes of seat time to consume breakfast and a minimum of 20 minutes of seat time to consume lunch [Board of Education, NC. Pub. Instr. 7 CFR Part 245].</p> <p>Indirect cost may not be assessed to a School Food Authority (SFA) unless the SFA has a two month operating balance. The indirect cost rate is capped at 8% of allowable costs; this applies to all SFAs. [NC G.S. 115C – 450]</p>
<p>ND</p>	<p>North Dakota does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.</p>	<p>North Dakota provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price category for breakfast (\$0.30) for students [N.D CENT Code § 15-54-03, 7 CFR 210.11]. During the 2023 Legislative Session, North Dakota passed an amendment (Sect 17) to the DPI Appropriations bill (SB 2284), offering \$6 million dollars to cover the cost of reduced-priced lunch, and the full cost of meals for students whose parents or guardians make less than 200% of the federal poverty level.</p>	<p>During the 2023 Legislative Session, ND passed HB 1494, Anti-Lunch Shaming Policy. House Bill 1494 prevents stigmatization or penalization of a student for having an unpaid lunch debt. Practices like withholding meals, using lunch tokens, placing a child’s name on a list of those with lunch debt, or limiting participation in school activities are no longer allowed. This bill easily passed through both chambers with only one nay vote each and is now a law. Here is the link for the bill House Bill No. 1494 - Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota - LC Number 23.0879.03000 (ndlegis.gov)</p>	<p>None.</p>

OH	Ohio requires each school district to establish and maintain a breakfast, lunch, and summer food service program. The SBP is required in schools where at least 20% of the students are eligible for free meals, or where 50% or more of the students' parents have requested the SBP [OHIO REV. CODE § 3314.18], [OHIO REV. CODE § 3313.813].	Ohio requires all public schools that participate in the SBP to provide free breakfast to all students that qualify for reduced-price meals when funding is authorized [OHIO REV. CODE § 3314.18]. Ohio provides breakfast and lunch reimbursement to all schools on the national school lunch and breakfast program to cover reduced students and allow them to provide reduced student meals at no cost [OHIO REV. CODE § 3301.91].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	None.
OK	Oklahoma does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	Oklahoma's legislature approves a state-match appropriation each year to reimburse school lunches, with the amount varying yearly [70 OK Stat § 70-3-119 (2014)].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	The Oklahoma Legislature encourages participation and recognizes that Farm to School Programs link schools and farms in order to provide schools with fresh and minimally processed farm commodities for inclusion in school meals and snacks, to help children develop healthy eating habits, and to improve Oklahoma farmers' incomes and direct access to markets [Okla. Stat. tit. 2, § 5-60.2].
OR	Oregon does not mandate participation in the NSLP. However, all schools with 25% or more free and reduced-price certified students to participate in SBP.	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch [OR SB 695]. Beginning July 1, 2020, the state will provide \$40 million in funding from the new Hunger Free Schools Account to expand the number of schools providing free breakfast and lunch to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision and to increase the	School districts must provide a child a federally reimbursable meal, regardless if they have the funds to pay for it. Students with school meal debt cannot be publicly identified, shamed, or forced to work in the cafeteria in exchange for school meals. The school district must attempt to directly certify students with	Time spent by students consuming breakfast is considered instructional time when students consume breakfast in the students' classroom and instruction is being provided while students are consuming

	<p>All schools with 70% or more free or reduced-price certified students are required to establish a breakfast after the bell program by 2021 [OR. REV. STAT. §327.535].</p>	<p>income eligibility for free meals to 300 percent of the poverty line at non-CEP schools. Will go into effect fall 2020 if the ballot referral is passed in January 2020 [HB 3427 §29-32].</p>	<p>school meal debt, and encourage the completion of a school meal application for households that are not certified for free or reduced-price meals. All communication concerning school meal debt must be directed towards parents [HB 3454].</p>	<p>breakfast. No more than 15 minutes may be considered instructional time when students are consuming breakfast [OR. REV. STAT. §327.535].</p>
<p>PA</p>	<p>Pennsylvania does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.</p>	<p>Pennsylvania provides an additional \$0.10 per breakfast or lunch served. All schools that participate in the NSLP or SBP may receive an additional \$0.02 per lunch and schools with more than 20% of their students participating in the SBP may receive an additional \$0.04 per lunch. [22 PA. CONSOL. STAT. § 13-1337.1].</p> <p>To the extent funds are available, the Department of Education shall provide state reimbursement to schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program for the difference between the reimbursement rate for a free lunch and a reduced price lunch and the difference between the reimbursement rate for a free breakfast and a reduced price for breakfast or paid breakfast.</p>	<p>Pennsylvania schools are prohibited from denying a meal to any student who requests one but does not have the money to pay at the time of service. Schools cannot publicly identify or stigmatize students because they have a school meal debt. Communication about a student’s school meal debt must be directed to the parent/guardian. Such communication must occur when the student owes money for five or more meals [The school must then make at least two attempts to reach the parent or guardian. (HB 178 2017, P.L. 1142, No. 55)].</p> <p>For students enrolled in grades 9-12, the board of school directors may require schools to direct communications regarding a low balance or money owed to the student if the communications are made individually to the student by appropriate school personnel and are made discreetly. This is in addition to the communication to the parent. (Act 39 of 2018)</p>	<p>None.</p>

			<p>Schools cannot publicly identify or stigmatize students because they have a school meal debt. Likewise, students cannot be made to do chores or other work to earn a school meal. Schools are prohibited from directing a student to discard a meal that has been served to them because they cannot pay for it at the time of service or because they have an existing school meal debt. (Act 55 of 2017) For students enrolled in grades 9-12, the board of school directors may require schools to direct communications regarding a low balance or money owed to the student if the communications are made individually to the student by appropriate school personnel and are made discreetly. This is in addition to the communication to the parent. (Act 39 of 2018)</p> <p>Staff members are prohibited from discarding a meal that has been served to the student because the student cannot pay for it at the time of service or because they have an existing school meal debt. (Act 55 of 2022)</p>	
RI	<p>Rhode Island requires all public schools to participate in the NSLP and SBP [R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-8-10].</p>	<p>Rhode Island provides additional reimbursement per breakfast served, which is determined based on each district's proportion of the number of breakfasts served in the prior school year. Rhode Island currently provides up to \$270,000 in reimbursements [R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-8-10.1].</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>[200-RICR-20-25-4] outlines specific state nutrition requirements that go above those required by the Federal government</p>

		Rhode Island requires mandatory contract terms requiring contracts to pay school lunch workers and aides for 180 days or the length of the contract for the school year, whichever is longer [R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-8-10.2]		
SC	South Carolina requires all public schools to participate in the NSLP and SBP [S.C CODE ANN. § 59-63-710] . However, a waiver may be given by the under certain circumstances [S.C CODE ANN. § 59-63-800] .	The state does not provide additional per meal reimbursements.	Amend the code of laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding section 59-63-785 so as to provide public schools, public school districts, charter schools, and charter school governing bodies may not use debt collection agencies to collect or attempt to collect outstanding debts on student school lunch or breakfast accounts, to provide public schools, public school districts, charter schools, and charter school governing bodies may not assess or collect any interest, fees, or other such monetary penalties for outstanding debts for student school lunch or breakfast accounts, to provide necessary definitions, and to make the provisions of this act applicable to debts on student lunch and breakfast accounts outstanding on the effective date of this act and incurred After The Effective Date Of This Act. SC H3006	Seat Time Requirements: Each elementary school shall provide students a minimum of 20 minutes to eat lunch once they have received their food. In determining the total length of the lunch period, time to and from the cafeteria, time to go through the line, and time to bus trays at the end of lunch must be considered [S.C CODE. ANN. § 59-10-350] .
SD	South Dakota does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs.	The state pays freight and storage of USDA Foods for public schools out of the state match and then prorates distribution of the balance to public schools based on the number of NSLP lunches served [S. DAKOTA LAWS §13-13-10.1] .	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	None.

<p>TN</p>	<p>Tennessee does not mandate participation in federal school meal programs. However, Tennessee does require all public-school districts to provide a school lunch program. Every school that hosts K-8 students in which 25% or more participated in the school lunch program at a free or reduced price. Every school that does not host K-8 students in which 40% or more students participated in the school lunch program at a free or reduced price [TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-2302].</p>	<p>The state does not offer additional per meal reimbursements.</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>TX</p>	<p>Texas does not mandate participation in the NSLP or SBP. Schools with 10% or more of the students eligible for free or reduced-price meals must make a reimbursable breakfast available to all students. Schools with 80% or more of the students are eligible for a free or reduced-price must offer a free breakfast to all students [TEX EDUC. CODE ANN § 33.901]. Texas does mandate that schools with 50% of NSLP</p>	<p>During the 2023 state legislative session the Texas Legislature approved funding to eliminate the reduced-price breakfast category during SY 23-24 and SY 24 – 25.</p>	<p>Students must be given a grace period for charging meals when the no longer have funds in their student account. Each district sets the grace period. During the grace period, the student must receive a meal. Parents must be notified of grace period policy in writing. Parents must be notified when a student has unpaid meal charges and must be given the opportunity to set up a payment plan. Grace period restarts each school year [TEX. EDUC. CODE § 33.908].</p>	<p>None.</p>

	participants receiving free or reduced lunch must offer a summer meal program [TEX. AG. CODE. § 12.0029].			
UT	Utah requires that any LEA's that participate in the National School Lunch Program must also participate in the School Breakfast Program. Utah Code 53G-9-205.1	There are no additional per meal reimbursements. Instead, Utah uses proceeds from its liquor tax (vary yearly) to provide reimbursement for public school meal programs [Utah State Board of Education].	No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.	See information in "School Meal Mandates"
VT	All public schools are required to participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. In the event of an emergency, a waiver may be granted by the commissioner for up to 20 school days [16 VT. STAT. ANN. § 1264]. School boards may vote to exempt districts from these requirements for up to one year [16 VT. STAT. ANN. § 1265].	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch [16 VT. STAT. ANN. § 1264]. The Universal School Meals Act extends free breakfasts and lunches for all public school students for the 2022-23 school year. It requires data collection to be used in determining how to make the program permanent. S. 100 All public schools in Vermont are required to make school breakfast and lunch available to all students at no charge. Effective school year 2023-2024 [H.165].		None.
VA	Each school board shall require each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division to participate in the federal National School Lunch Program and the federal	State Breakfast Incentive Funding: \$9,637,895 the first year and \$11,898,741 the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund is included to continue a state funded incentive program to maximize federal school nutrition revenues and increase student participation in the school breakfast program. The per meal reimbursement shall be \$0.22; however,	Virginia prohibits school board employees from requiring a student who cannot pay for a meal to work to pay for meals, to be physically identified as owing for school meals, and prohibits lawsuits filed against the student or the student's parent for inability to pay or	Each local school board that collects information to determine eligibility for participation in the SBP or the NSLP administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall establish

	<p>School Breakfast Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-79.7:1]</p> <p>All schools eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision must apply to participate. Waivers are available for schools for which the program is not financially viable. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-207.4:1]</p> <p>All schools with 50% or more enrolled students who are free or reduced-price certified during the previous and offers educational enrichment activities school year must participate in the Afterschool Meal Program. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-207.4:2]</p>	<p>the department is authorized, but not required to reduce this amount proportionately in the event that the actual number of meals to be reimbursed exceeds the number on which this appropriation is based so that this appropriation is not exceeded (Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, Chapter 1, Item 137, C28).</p> <p>Breakfast After the Bell: Out of this appropriation, \$1,074,000 the first year and \$1,074,000 the second year from the general fund is provided to fund an After-the-Bell Model breakfast program available on a voluntary basis to elementary, middle, and high schools where student eligibility for free or reduced lunch exceeds 45.0 percent for the participating eligible school, and to provide additional reimbursement for eligible meals served in the current traditional school breakfast program at all grade levels in any participating school (Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, Item 137. C.28).</p> <p>School Meals Expansion: \$4,100,000 the first year and \$4,100,000 the second year from the general fund is provided for local school divisions to reduce or eliminate the cost of school breakfast and school lunch for students who are eligible for reduced price meals under the federal National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, Item 137. C.28).</p> <p>State Lunch Match: \$5,801,932 appropriated annually as required by Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations §210.17 (Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, Item 137).</p>	<p>owing debt. Virginia also requires school board employees to communicate directly with the parent regarding student debt and permits this communication to be sent home with the student. Denying students who owe meal debt or cannot pay for a meal from participating in extracurricular school activities is prohibited. School boards are permitted to solicit donations for the purpose of eliminating or offsetting meal debt. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-79.7]</p>	<p>and post prominently on its website a web-based application for student participation in such program and shall continue to provide a paper-based application. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-207.2:2]</p> <p>A meal must be provided to any student who requests such a meal, regardless of whether such student has the money to pay for the meal or owes money for meals previously provided, unless the student's parent has provided written permission to the school board to withhold such a meal from the student. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-79.7:1]</p> <p>Each public elementary or secondary school shall process each web-based or paper-based application for participation in the SBP or the NSLP within six working days after the date of receipt of the completed application. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-207.2:2]</p>
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Each school board may distribute excess food to enrolled students eligible for the SBP or the NSLP who the school board determines are eligible to receive excess food or may develop a policy for donating excess food. [\[VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-207.3:1\]](#).

Each school board is required to ensure that at any back to school night event in the local school division to which the parents of enrolled students are invited, any such parent in attendance receives prominent notification of and access, in paper or electronic form, or both, to information about application and eligibility for free or reduced price meals for students and a fillable free or reduced price meals application that may be completed and submitted on site. [\[VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-79\]](#)

Each school board is required to ensure that the information sheet on the

SNAP benefits program developed and provided by the Department of Social Services pursuant to subsection D of § 63.2-801 is sent home with each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the local school division at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment [\[VA CODE ANN. § 22.1-79\]](#)

Each school board is required to ensure that a fillable free or reduced price meals application is sent home with each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the local school division at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment [\[VA CODE ANN. § 22.1-79\]](#)

				<p>Any place or operation that prepares or stores food for distribution to child or adult day care centers or schools, regardless of whether the receiving day care center or school holds a restaurant license, to the definition of "restaurant" as it applies to Title 35.1 [VA CODE ANN. §35.1-1]</p>
<p>WA</p>	<p>All schools with 70 percent or more free or reduced-price certified students are required to establish a breakfast after the bell program in the 2019–2020 school year. Allows time spent consuming breakfast in the classroom to be considered instructional time if students are engaged in an educational activity. Provided \$1.2 million in one-time state funding to help schools with initial implementation costs [H.B. 1508].</p> <p>All public schools with 25 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to operate NSLP for all K–4</p>	<p>The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.40 for lunch for K–3 public school students and to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 per breakfast in K– 12 public schools.</p> <p>The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.17 per free and reduced-price breakfast served in school year 2018–2019 [WASH. REV. CODE §4198-01].</p> <p>The state provides annual grant funds for schools administered by OSPI to increase participation in school breakfast. Allowable uses of the grant include improving meal quality and food choices; improving equipment and meal facilities; outreach and engagement to students and families. [WASH. REV. CODE § 28A.235.150].</p>	<p>Washington prohibits any school district personnel from taking any action that would publicly identify a student who cannot pay for a school meal or for meals previously served to the student, including requiring the student to wear a wristband, hand stamp, or other identifying marker, or by serving the student an alternative meal. [WASH. REV CODE § 28A.235.270].</p>	<p>Seat Time Requirements: The school breakfast and school lunch periods shall allow a reasonable amount of time for each child to take care of personal hygiene and enjoy a complete meal [WAC § 392-157-125].</p>

students. All public schools with 40 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP [[WASH. REV. CODE § 28A.235.160](#)].

HB 2660 increases the availability of school meals provided to public school students at no student cost. In 2020- 2021, each school with a school lunch program and school breakfast program must make school meals available to all students at no charge if the school or district has an identified student percentage of at least 40% or 70% of the students of the school or school district qualify for free or reduced price meals. [[HB 2660](#)].

HB 1878 extended the mandate to all CEP-eligible schools and ensures that states pay the difference in the reimbursement for schools with ISPs between 40-62.5%

Public schools with an identified student percentage

	of at least 40% must participate in the USDA’s community eligibility provision, making school meals available to all students at no charge regardless of individual eligibility. HB 1878			
WV	West Virginia requires schools to participate in the NSLP and SBP. All schools are required to adopt policies and procedures that ensures all students are given an adequate opportunity to eat breakfast including “grab and go,” “Breakfast in the classroom,” and “breakfast after the bell” [W. VA. CODE § 18-5D].	West Virginia provides no additional state funding for meal reimbursements. However, West Virginia has Public-private partnerships that help cover additional costs for schools to be able to offer free breakfast or lunch to all students. The state agency can create a nonprofit foundation to help county boards of education raise funds to cover the costs [W. VA. CODE § 18-5D-4].	Counties are prohibited from penalizing students due to unpaid and/or outstanding meal debt. This includes denial of meals, prohibition of participating in extra-curricular activities, the denial of participation in graduation, and/or the refusal of transcript requests. Students shall not be denied a meal or served an alternative meal as a result of unpaid meal debt. All communication addressing financial matters shall be directed to parents/guardians. Practices, including putting stickers or wristbands on children to remind parents/guardians to pay unpaid fees are prohibited. Schools are prohibited from identifying or stigmatizing students with meal debt or require them to complete chores or work in exchange for meals [W. VA. C.S.R §126-86-14.1].	Seat Time Requirements: West Virginia has mealtime regulations that require adequate time for student meal consumption. Each student shall be allowed a minimum of ten minutes for breakfast and 20 minutes for lunch after the student received the meal [W. VA. CODE § 126-86-8]. “The Shared Table” encourages schools to collect unused food appropriate for redistribution, and make that food available throughout the day to students who may be hungry, to provide a method for discrete distribution of that food to be taken home by kids with food insecurity, and to donate any unused food to local food pantries and other entities that distribute food to those in need [W. VA. CODE § 18-5D-5].

				<p>HB 3073 Establishes the West Virginia Emergency School Food Act. Encourages schools/county boards of education to have emergency plans to feed children when access to school meals is disrupted.</p>
WI	<p>Wisconsin does not mandate participation in school meal programs.</p>	<p>Wisconsin reimburses each school board \$0.15 for each breakfast and lunch served at a school that meets the federal school nutrition requirements [WIS. STAT. § 115.341].</p> <p>The Wisconsin School Day Milk Program (WSDMP) reimburses schools for a portion of costs for serving milk to Pre-K through 5th students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Only one half-pint of milk may be claimed per eligible student per school day. By State law, no charge can be made to those students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals and are receiving free milk under the WSDMP [WIS. STAT. § 115.343].</p>	<p>All school shall provide a quality meal to each pupil who requests one, regardless of the pupil's ability to pay for the quality meal and may not give the pupil an inferior meal in place of a quality meal. The state requires schools from taking certain actions against any student unable to pay for meals and requires schools to provide information and take certain actions related to free or reduced-price meal applications [WIS. STAT. § 115.3415].</p>	<p>None.</p>
WY	<p>Wyoming does not mandate participation in school meal programs.</p>	<p>Wyoming provides no additional state funding for meal reimbursements.</p>	<p>No formal statewide policy, practices are decided at the local, district level.</p>	<p>None.</p>