

That's A Fact

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

- President Harry Truman established the National School Lunch Program in 1946. He did so in response to the large number of WWII recruits that was rejected due to malnutrition.
- NSLP is the largest of the federal child nutrition programs both in terms of spending and children served.
- Today, the school lunch program serves more than 31.7 million students per day.
- 65% of students who participate in the school lunch program receive their lunch free or at a reduced cost.
- Over 92% of all students nationwide have access to school lunch and about 58% of those students participate on a given day.
- NSLP operates in 99% of all public schools and 85% of private schools. That's over 101,000 public and non-profit private schools.
- NSLP meals must meet the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as well as federal nutrition guidelines.
- Lunch prices are divided into the following three categories: free, reduced and paid. Students from families with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130% and 185% are eligible for reduced price meals.
- The 2011-2012 reimbursement rates were \$2.77 for free lunches, \$2.37 for reduced-price lunches and \$.26 for paid lunches.
- In fiscal year 2010, \$9.7 billion was appropriated for the school lunch program.

**USDA NSLP 2011*

The School Breakfast Program (SBP)

- SBP began as a 700 school pilot under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.
- SBP was made permanent in 1975.
- Today, 11.6 million children in 88,000 schools start their day with a school breakfast.
- The qualification criteria for free/reduced price breakfasts is the same as for lunch.
- 87% of schools that participate in the NSLP participate in the SBP (*Food Action and Resource Center*)
- In 2010, over 83% of the students participating in the program received their breakfast for free or at a reduced price.
- The reimbursement rates for 2011-2012 were \$1.51 for free breakfasts, \$1.21 for reduced-price breakfasts and \$.27 for paid breakfasts.
- Numerous studies including research at Harvard and Tufts and a Minnesota pilot program have shown a direct correlation between school breakfast participation and academic performance.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

- SFSP began as part of a pilot program in 1968, but became a separate program in 1975.
- Sponsors receive reimbursements from the USDA to serve free, healthy meals to children at a central site during the summer months.
- SFSP meal sites operate in areas where at least half of children are eligible for free or reduced price meals (at or below 185% of federal poverty line).
- In the summer of 2011, the maximum reimbursement rates were approximately \$1.86 for breakfast, \$3.26 for lunch/supper and \$0.76 for snack.
- In FY2009, Congress appropriated \$357.9 million for the Summer Food Service Program.

Afterschool Snack Program

- The Afterschool Snack Program began in 1998, as an expansion of both the NSLP and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Sponsors receive cash reimbursements for snacks served to child and youth in certain afterschool care programs.
- Afterschool care programs are eligible if they provide regularly scheduled educational and enrichment activities in an organized, structured and supervised environment.
- 1.5 million children receive a snack each day through NSLP, though there is great potential to expand the program further.
- The 2011-2012 reimbursement rates were \$0.76 for free snacks, \$0.38 for reduced-price snacks and \$0.07 for paid snacks.