

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Comparison of Programs SFSP/NSLP/SSO

This is a comparison between the various Child Nutrition Summer Meal Programs. The purpose of this comparison chart is to inform and encourage more School Food Authorities (SFAs) to provide meals in the summer and other times when school is not in session. Both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) reduce paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for SFAs to feed children in low-income areas during the summer months or during the extended breaks of a year-round school schedule.

Areas where the provisions in the SSO are same as SFSP, rather than NSLP, are highlighted as *Same as SFSP*.

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSOv
Eligible Sponsors	SFAs, Local government agencies, Private non-profit organizations, Universities or Colleges, Community & faith-based organizations. SFAs are waived of the requirement to demonstrate financial and administrative capability for program operations.	SFAs	SFAs currently administering the NSLP and/or SBP.
Times of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) • During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar. 	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas. • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies). • During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar.
Meal Service Locations	Schools, Camps, Churches, Community Centers, Housing Projects, Libraries, Migrant Centers, Parks, Playgrounds, Pools, and Other public sites where children gather.	Schools, Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs).	<i>Same as SFSP</i>
Meal Cost for Children	All meals are free. (Although camps are only reimbursed for children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals, camp sponsors may, and usually do, provide meals free of charge to all children).	Meal cost (free/reduced-price/paid) for children is based on their income eligibility.	<i>Same as SFSP</i>