



Arizona Department of Education

Highly Effective Schools

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

21st CCLC Snacks and Meals COVID-19 Guidance

School Nutrition Programs safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children by establishing healthy eating habits and *providing adequate food for children*.

All 21st CCLC Title IV-B programs must offer afterschool snacks and summer program meals.

At a minimum, 21st CCLC programs must offer

- afterschool snacks during the academic year program and
- summer meals during the 21st CCLC summer program.

These snacks and meals must meet the nutrition guidelines of the (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)).

Whether Arizona's 21st CCLC afterschool snacks and meals are provided through the LEA's School Food Authority or sponsored by another organization, they are funded by snack and meals reimbursements through USDA funded programs. These programs are administered through the Arizona Department of Education's Office of Health and Nutrition Services. USDA funded programs include:

- National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP)
 - Afterschool Care Snack Program (ASCSP) provided under NSLP
- USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - At-Risk Afterschool Meals provided under CACFP in afterschool care settings/programs
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Note: Community Food Banks are used by some 21st CCLC programs for food service, where the Food Bank applies for USDA funding on their behalf.

Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction

1535 West Jefferson Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • (602) 542-5460 • www.azed.gov

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Title IV-B program is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Arizona Department of Education. For more information visit: <http://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/>



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COVID-19 Flexibility for USDA Child Nutrition Programs Operations: Applicability to 21st CCLC Title IV-B Programs

Afterschool Care Snack Program (ASCSP) via NSLP*

If your school's food services operates the afterschool care snack program (under the NSLP) for your 21CCLC program, the afterschool snack can be offered and reimbursed for either distance learning or for services offered in person in school facilities.

- *Applicable waivers until June 30, 2021: Non-congregate Feeding, Meal Times, Parent Pickup, Offer vs. Serve, Meal Pattern Flexibility*
- 21st CCLC Title IV-B programs are academic enrichment programs which are an intervention offered to support the regular school day. As such, the afterschool snacks served to the school's students participating in 21st CCLC Title IV-B programs qualify the LEA's food services for reimbursement of those snacks provided under the NSLP program.

*National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP)

- *Applicable waivers until June 30, 2021: Non-congregate feeding, Meal Times, Parent Pickup, Offer vs. Serve, Meal Pattern Flexibility*
- NSLP begins when the school year begins. The school year begins when instruction begins, whether that is in-person or distance learning
- Reimbursable meals can only be claimed for instructional days
- Meals/Snacks are provided for in-person learning and distance learning for enrolled students
- Meals/Snacks may be pre-plated/pre-bagged
- Meals/Snacks can be delivered to homes
- Offer vs. Serve (OVS) is optional for all age/grade groups
- Meals/Snacks do not need to be served during specific meal times, and breakfast and lunch can be served at the same time
- Enrolled students can pick up meals/snacks at any site within the School Food Authority (SFA) as long as the SFA can maintain integrity and properly count and claim meals/snacks; meals/snacks are claimed at the site in which the student is enrolled, not at the site the meals were served
- Meals/Snacks for multiple days can be distributed at once (SFAs must complete a distribution plan prior to distributing meals for multiple days—see [HNS #33-2020](#) for details)

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- Parents/guardians of eligible children can pick up meals/snacks (SFAs must opt into the use of this waiver—see [HNS #33-2020](#) for details)
- Meal/Snacks pattern flexibilities are available to address issues with food availability (SFAs must report each instance the meal pattern is not met due to issues with food availability—see [HNS #33-2020](#) for details)
- Serving meals/snacks on bus routes is allowable; if serving meals/snacks on bus routes, describe this method of service in Section 6 of the CNPWeb Sponsor application (Method of Meal Counting Description AND Point of Service Description)
- SFAs must make the NSLP available during all academic school days to all enrolled students in attendance, whether in-person or virtually
- SFAs may distribute up to five days' worth of meals/snacks at a time (SFAs must complete a distribution plan prior to distributing meals for multiple days —see [HNS #33-2020](#) for details)
- When breakfast and lunch meals/snacks are being packed and served together (for a single day or for multiple days), students must have the ability to decline any of the meals/snacks if they wish

In addition to serving the required afterschool snacks and summer program meals, 21st CCLC programs are also highly encouraged to offer free breakfast and evening meals as part of their program *when possible*. Currently, evening meals can only be reimbursed for in person on-site learning.

Reason: At this time, the enrichment requirement for At-Risk afterschool meals has not been waived by the USDA. Therefore, to qualify for evening meals reimbursement under At-Risk Afterschool Meals, 21st CCLC activities must be conducted in person on-site, to meet the requirement of enrichment for At-Risk afterschool meals.

ADE School Nutrition Programs COVID-19 Resource Page link:

<https://www.azed.gov/hns/nslp/snpcovid/>

The information above was verified with ADE Health and Nutrition Services on July 31, 2020. Check the link above for updates.

For additional technical assistance, please contact ADE Health and Nutrition Services at (602) 542-8700.

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