



Summer Meal Service Site Eligibility

This resource outlines the data that operators of the Summer Meals Programs can use to establish site eligibility.

Sponsors may operate summer meal service at one or more sites as long as the site and meal services have been approved by ADE prior to the start of the site operation. Below are common site types and their eligibility requirements.

SCHOOL DATA: Sponsors may use free and reduced data from elementary, middle, or high schools to qualify SFSP sites. The site must be located within the attendance area of a school with at least 50% of its children eligible for free and reduced-price meals. School data is updated annually and posted on the Health and Nutrition Services webpage.

CENSUS DATA: If the site is not located within an eligible attendance area, sponsors may use census data to see if the potential site(s) fall within a tract that qualifies. The USDA Capacity Builder Mapping Tool can assist with making eligibility determinations and locating eligible areas within a community.

Site Type	Description	Eligibility
Open Site	Meals are made available to all children in the area. Schools with academic summer school are required to be open to the community.	Must be located within the attendance area of a school with 50% or more free/reduced-price meals or within a census tract that qualifies.
Open Restricted Site	Operates much like an open site, but there is a need to restrict or limit meal participation for reasons of space, security, safety, or control.	Same as open site. Sponsors must make it publicly known that the site offers free meals to children, but it will be limited for the reasons noted.
Closed Enrolled Site	Meals are made available to only the enrolled group of children attending the site, as opposed to the community at large. This site type may be selected when the site is unable to accommodate additional children from the community.	Same as open or restricted open sites OR it may be located outside of an eligible area, but then at least 50% of the children enrolled must be considered to be low-income. When not area eligible, sponsors are required to keep enrollment records and participant eligibility documentation each month to verify that at least 50% of the children are eligible.
Camps	Camps can be residential or nonresidential day camps that offer regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children.	Unlike open, restricted open, and closed enrolled sites, sponsors of both residential and nonresidential camps do not have to establish area eligibility. However, they must collect and maintain participant eligibility documentation. Camps are only reimbursed for those enrolled children who meet the free and/or reduced-price eligibility standards.
Migrant Site	Serves primarily migrant children.	Migrant status is confirmed annually by having the Sponsor submit information obtained from a migrant organization that certifies that the site serves a majority of children of migrant workers.