



Operating Congregate & Non-Congregate Feeding

AT THE SAME SUMMER MEAL SERVICE SITE

Operating both congregate and non-congregate summer meal services at the same site in Arizona is feasible under specific conditions outlined by the USDA and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This approach can enhance meal accessibility while ensuring program integrity. For more information or direct support, please contact ADE Health and Nutrition Services via [HelpDesk](#).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DUAL MEAL SERVICE OPERATIONS:

- ✔ **Sequential Meal Services:** A site may offer congregate and non-congregate meals, but not simultaneously. For instance, a site could provide a congregate breakfast followed by a non-congregate lunch, ensuring each meal service type occurs at different times.
- ✔ **Distinct Participant Groups:** If a site intends to serve both meal types concurrently, it must demonstrate that each service caters to different groups of children. This ensures the same children do not receive multiple meals beyond the allowable limits.
- ✔ **State Agency Approval:** Prior approval from the ADE is required. Sponsors must provide a comprehensive plan detailing how they will prevent service overlap and ensure compliance with meal distribution regulations.
- ✔ **Compliance with Meal Limits:** Operators must have systems in place to ensure that children do not receive more than the maximum number of meals allowed per day, regardless of the service type.
- ✔ **Training Requirements:** Both congregate and non-congregate meal service operations must be included in program training sessions for administrative and site personnel to ensure understanding and adherence to guidelines.

