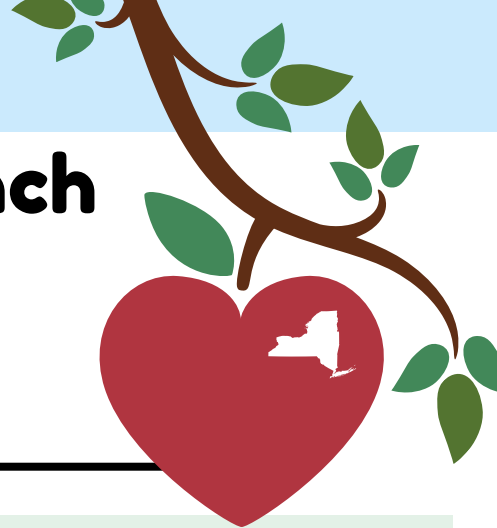


The National School Lunch Program In New York State



National School Lunch Program (NSLP):

The NSLP is a federally assisted meal program in public, charter, and nonprofit private schools established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. It offers nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day.

Administration:

The NSLP is managed nationally by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. In New York, the State Education Department administers this program to schools participating through state agreements to receive USDA [cash reimbursements](#) and [commodity assistance](#) for each eligible student lunch served.

Meal Sourcing:

Schools can prepare meals in their own kitchens, contract with external vendors to provide prepared meals, or [contract with a Food Service Management Company](#). Schools are responsible for obtaining requisite food service permits through their local health department. All meals served must meet federally established [meal pattern requirements](#).

Operating Requirements:

Program regulations can be found at [7 CFR Part 210 and 245](#), [2 CFR Part 200](#), [400](#), and [415](#).

Here are some key requirements:

- Create [menus](#) that meet federal nutrition standards to ensure students receive balanced and healthy meals.
- Adhere to [food safety and sanitation standards](#) to prevent foodborne illnesses.
- Ensure equal access to meal programs and comply with [civil rights laws](#) to prevent discrimination.

- Provide [meal modifications for students with disabilities](#).
- Determine and verify [students' eligibility](#) for free or reduced-price meals.
- Use [direct certification](#) to determine students automatically eligible for free meal programs based on participation in other federal assistance programs.
- Accurately [document and report the number of meals served](#) monthly to receive state and federal reimbursement.
- Follow [procurement guidelines](#) and prioritize [purchasing American-grown foods](#).
- Maintain a [nonprofit food service account](#) to manage funds received and spent on meal programs.
- Ensure school nutrition staff meet specific [training and education standards](#) to be qualified to operate meal programs.
- Ensure all foods sold outside the school meal programs comply with [Smart Snacks](#) standards to promote healthier eating habits.
- Develop and implement [wellness policies](#) that promote student health and well-being.

Monitoring, Training & Assistance:

The New York State Education Department monitors schools' operations and provides technical assistance and training to help schools meet programmatic and fiscal requirements. The Department provides free materials to schools to promote program participation and communicate the relationship between proper eating and good health.

Apply:

Schools interested in participating can [request an application](#) from the New York State Education Department, Office of Child Nutrition.