

After School Care Snack Program Fact Sheet

How does this program work? The After School Care Snack Program (ASCSP) is a federal reimbursement program established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program provides reimbursement to help sponsors serve nutritious snacks to students after their school day ends. The program provides students with a nutritional boost and encourages participation in supervised activities that are safe, fun and filled with learning opportunities.

Who can apply to participate in the ASCSP? Any school, public or private, or Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) can apply for ASCSP.

What are the program requirements? The after school care program must provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured and supervised environment after the end of the school day.

Can the programs operate year-round? The ASCSP component of the NSLP may operate only on days that school is in session and does not include weekends, holidays or school vacations. Typically this does not include the summer months, although year-round school programs may include snacks served in after school programs.

Are there any after school care programs that may not be approved? Yes, organized athletic programs engaged in interscholastic or community level competitive sports programs (for example, varsity or junior varsity sports programs, "Babe Ruth" baseball and area swim teams) may not be approved.

What qualifies a student as eligible to participate? All students through the age of 18 and those who turn age 19 during the school year are eligible for participating in the ASCSP.

What determines reimbursement? There are three types of eligibility that determine reimbursement:

- 1) **Site eligible** – The program is located at a site in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. The sponsor will receive the free reimbursement rate for snacks served to all students regardless of each individual student's eligibility status. All snacks must be served at no charge.
- 2) **Area eligible** – This program is located in an attendance area of an elementary, middle or high school with at least 50 percent of the enrolled students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. If the site qualifies using this method, the sponsor will receive the free reimbursement rate for snacks served to all students regardless of each individual student's eligibility status. All snacks must be served at no charge.
- 3) **Non-area eligible** – This program is not located in an attendance area of a school with at least 50 percent of the enrolled students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. In this case, the sponsor will receive paid, free and/or reduced-price reimbursement rate for snacks served to students based on their eligibility status using income eligibility applications and/or direct certification. Daily documentation of free, reduced-priced and full- paid students who are served snacks must be maintained.

- a) **Pricing Program** – As non-area eligible, sites have the option of operating a Pricing Program or a Non-Pricing Program. In the Pricing Program, students are charged a fee based on their eligibility status: sponsors may determine the price that paid, full-price students pay for snacks; reduced-price students may be charged no more than \$0.15; and free-eligible students receive snacks at no charge. Reimbursement rates reflect each eligibility category.
- b) In **Non-Pricing Programs**, all students receive snacks at no charge to them and the snacks are claimed in their eligibility category. Reimbursement rates reflect each eligibility category.

What is the definition of attendance area? The boundaries from where the school draws its enrollment. If a high school with less than 50 percent free or reduced-price school enrollment is located in an attendance area of a middle or elementary school that has 50 percent or more of the enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, then the high school's after-school care program is defined as area eligible.

What data is used to determine whether a site is site- or area-eligible? The Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System (CRRS) has a built-in component that automatically determines site- and area-eligibility. You may also look at the most recent October **MR-81** reports to determine site eligibility. The Web site is: <ftp://ftp.ode.state.oh.us/MR81>

What record keeping is required?

- 1 Snack count totals in site- and area-eligible sites.
- 2 Point of service snack counts and income eligibility documentation in non-area eligible sites.
- 3 Daily attendance records.
- 4 Daily snack menus records and production records.

Is there a limit on the number of snacks claimed per student? Yes. Only one snack, per student, per day may be claimed.

Can sponsors charge a price for the snack? Site-eligible and area-eligible mean that all snacks are served at no charge to the students and are claimed at the free reimbursement rate. In Non-Area Eligible sites, sponsors can set their own prices for snacks served to students who pay full price (paid students). Students in the reduced-price category may not be charged more than 15 cents

What are the monitoring requirements for sponsors? Each after school care site must be monitored and evaluated by the sponsor two times per year: The first evaluation must be performed during the first four weeks of snack service; The second evaluation may be performed any time before the end of the school year.

What are the meal service requirements for ASCSP? For students aged six years and older, snacks planned and served must contain two of the following components:

- 8 fluid ounces milk; only 1% unflavored or Fat-Free unflavored or flavored milk is allowed
- 1 ounce meat or meat alternate;
- ¾ cup of fruit or vegetable (or ¾ cup full-strength juice)*;
- 1 oz. eq. of Grain (bread = 1 oz; dry cereal = 1 cup; cooked cereal = ½ cup).

* **One or two items may be combined to meet the ¾ cup fruit and/or vegetable component.**

NOTE: Offer vs. Serve is not available in the snack program; a complete snack includes two of the four components.

May commodity foods be used in preparation of snacks? Yes.

To obtain additional information please contact: **The Ohio Department of Education. Office for Child Nutrition, 25 South Front Street, MS 303, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183. (800) 808-6325 (toll-free) or (614) 466-2945; (614) 752-7613 (fax).** Additional information is available at www.education.ohio.gov or www.fns.usda.gov.

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