

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Fact Sheet

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This option reduces paperwork and administrative burden on the sponsor, making it easier to feed children from low-income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods.

How does this program work?

Once approved by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), participating school districts serve meals free of charge to all children, 18 years and under, from low-income areas. The same NSLP and SBP rules apply for meal service. Meals served are reimbursed at the NSLP/SBP free rates.

Who can apply to participate in the SSO?

School districts participating in the NSLP and SBP are eligible to apply for the SSO. The following types of sites are allowed to participate in this option:

- **Open sites:** All children eat free in communities where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- **Restricted open sites:** Sites that meet the open site criteria, but are later restricted for safety, capacity, or security reasons.
- **Closed enrolled sites:** May be in any community for an enrolled group of low-income children and meets the 50 percent free and reduced-price criteria. This excludes academic summer schools.
- **Migrant sites:** Sites serving children of migrant families.
- **Camps:** Residential or non-residential.

What qualifies a student as eligible to participate?

All persons in the community who are 18 years of age and under and those persons age 18 or older who meet the state agency definition of mentally or physically disabled may receive meals under the SSO.

What are the program requirements?

Each site must be monitored and evaluated by the sponsor at least once during the site's operation. The school food authority (SFA) must review the site's compliance with meal counting, claiming, menu planning and food safety requirements.

What records must be kept?

- Production Records
- Menus
- Daily meal counts
- Self-Review Form

What meal pattern/menu planning system is to be used for lunch and supper under the SSO?

Schools participating in the SSO must follow the NSLP meal pattern. School sites may allow offer versus serve.

How many meals are reimbursable under the SSO per day?

Up to two types of meals per day can be reimbursed (three for migrant sites and camps). Allowable meals may include breakfast, lunch, snack and supper. Only migrant sites and camps may be reimbursed for both lunch and supper served to the same children on the same day. For camps, both residential and non-residential, only the meals served to income eligible children will be reimbursed.

Can schools operating an academic summer school participate in the SSO as a closed enrolled site?

No. If the school site provides meals only to enrolled summer school students, it is not eligible to participate in the seamless option. Meal services at academic summer school sites must be open to children in the community to qualify for the seamless summer option. Academic summer school meals remain eligible for reimbursement at free, reduced and paid rates under the NSLP/SBP.

Can a SSO site charge for meals served to eligible children?

No. Meals at all approved seamless summer sites, except camps, must be served free of charge to all children. SFAs that sponsor camps may charge for meals served to children who are not eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Can USDA Foods be used in the SSO?

Yes, SFAs are permitted to use USDA Food in the SSO. To obtain additional information, please contact:

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
Office of Nutrition
25 S. Front Street; Mail Stop: 303
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
1-800-808-6325
child.nutrition@education.ohio.gov

Additional information is available at <http://www.education.ohio.gov> or www.fns.usda.gov

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- 1. Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2. Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. Email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

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