

## Seamless Summer Program Fact Sheet

### What is it?

The Seamless Summer Option 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, making it easier to feed children from low-income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods.

### How does this program work?

Once approved by ODE, 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 Seamless Summer Option?

School districts participating in the NSLP and SBP are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option. The types of sites allowed to participate in this option include:

- **Open sites:** all children eat free in communities where at least 50% of the children are eligible for free/reduced price meals.
- **Restricted open sites:** sites that meet the open site criteria, explained above, but are later restricted for safety, control or security reasons.
- **Closed enrolled sites:** may be in any community for an enrolled group of low-income children and meets the 50% criteria explained above. This excludes academic summer schools.
- **Migrant 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 over age 18 who meet the State agency definition of mentally or physically disabled may receive meals under the seamless summer option.

### What are the program requirements?

Each site must be monitored and evaluated by the sponsor at least once during the site’s operation. The 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 Seamless Summer Option?**

Schools participating in the Seamless Summer Option must follow the new NSLP Food-Based meal pattern.  
School sites may allow offer versus serve.

**How many meals are reimbursable under the Seamless Summer Option 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 (based on free/reduced-price applications) will be reimbursed.

**Can schools operating an academic summer school participate in the seamless summer option 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 in order to qualify for the seamless summer option. Academic summer schools meals remain eligible for reimbursement at free, reduced and paid rates under the NSLP/SBP.

**Can a seamless summer 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 commodity foods be used in the Seamless Summer Program?**

Yes.

To obtain additional information please contact:

**The Ohio Department of Education  
Office of Integrated Student Supports  
25 S. Front Street; Mail Stop: 303  
Columbus, OH 43215-4183  
1-800-808-6325  
(614) 752-7613 (fax)**

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

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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