



WELLNESS AND NUTRITION SCHOOL PROGRAMS



The Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) oversees the following U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs; National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), After School Snack Program (ASSP), Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP), Food Distribution Program (FDP) and the Special Milk Program (SMP) in addition to other local and federal nutrition programs.

These programs serve to improve the health of all children in the District by providing nutritious meals and milk in schools. Our vision is to aid families and students, ensuring that each child receives a nutritious meal every day and that no child goes hungry.

Program Descriptions

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP)



The goal of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is to protect the health and well-being of the nation's children by providing nutritious school meals every day. Schools receive federal funding for each lunch served, provided that the meal meets established nutrition standards. The meals focus on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low fat dairy. The District of Columbia provides additional support through local funding to emphasize increased nutritional standards and local foods.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (SBP)



The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides funding that makes it possible for schools to offer a nutritious breakfast to students in the District of Columbia each day. The SBP is a federally assisted meal program operating in public, public charter, nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions (RCCIs). The SBP operates in the same manner as the NSLP. All local educational agencies that choose to take part in the SBP receive cash subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve breakfast that meet federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced-priced breakfasts to eligible children.

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM (SMP)



The Special Milk Program (SMP) provides funding for milk served to children in schools and child care institutions who do not participate in other Federal meal service Programs. The program reimburses schools for the milk they serve. Schools already in the NSLP or SBP may also participate in the SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten programs, where children do not have access to the school meals programs.

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM (FFVP)



The Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides all children in eligible, participating elementary schools with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables as a healthy snack option, free of cost. The FFVP also encourages nutrition education and community partnerships to help support participating schools. Fruits and vegetables served in the program must be given to students during the school day, outside of the breakfast and lunch programs.

AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM (ASSP)



The After School Snack Program (ASSP) is a federally funded program that offers cash assistance to public, public charter, and nonprofit private schools as well as residential child care institutions (RCCIs). The ASSP helps school serve after school snacks to children in afterschool activities. In order to participate, schools must provide children with regularly scheduled activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment that includes educational or enrichment activities (i.e. tutoring or mentoring programs). Competitive interscholastic sports teams are not eligible to participate in the ASSP. All children in the District of Columbia qualify for snacks at the free rate based on area eligibility and certain food requirements must be met for all snacks served.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (FDP)



Child Nutrition (CN) USDA Foods Program, is a federally funded program that offers USDA-purchased foods to eligible schools currently participating in the NSLP. Eligible schools must be in or entering a second or greater consecutive year in the NSLP to be considered eligible and have a current USDA Foods agreement with the District of Columbia as the State Agency. In addition to the bulk USDA foods received directly or sent for further processing, schools also have the option to receive fresh fruit and vegetables through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. All USDA Foods offered are intended to help offset the cost of providing reimbursable meals as defined by the NSLP, SBP, and ASSP. This assistance is given in addition to the cash reimbursements that schools receive by participating in the NSLP, SBP, and ASSP. As a buy America program, the FDP help support American agricultural producers. The State Agency coordinates with participating schools to select the food items to be purchased by the USDA which are later distributed to schools or their designees to be utilized in the production of reimbursable meals.