



## School Nutrition Program Operational Changes for the 2022-23 School Year

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided waivers to allow all children to eat at no cost through the USDA Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. Since April 2020, children throughout the United States have been able to eat meals at school at no cost to them. However, USDA no longer has the authority to grant such waivers, and, as such, school meal service will resume through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, operating as it did prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program follow different federal regulations than the Seamless Summer Option. The differences we are expected to see, but may not be limited to, for the upcoming school year are listed below.

### Current Operations SY2021-22

- All students ages 18 and under eat at no cost.
- Students do not have to be enrolled in a school district to receive meals from that district.
- Free and reduced-price meal applications are not required, but are encouraged, for students to receive a meal at no cost.

### Operational Changes Beginning SY2022-23

- Meals shall no longer be provided at no cost to all students. Students may receive meals at no cost if they are enrolled in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 schools, if they are Directly Certified, or qualify through a household income application.
  - To be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, parents must submit a household income application.
- Non-CEP or Provision 2 schools will need to collect household income applications to determine student eligibility for free or reduced-price meals for SY2022-23.
  - Additionally, household income applications may be used for other funding sources in your district. Benefits of completed income applications include:
    - increased funding to support student education, technology, and internet access
    - discounts for fees associated with the college application process
    - scholarship opportunities and discounted fees for SAT, ACT and AP tests
- Students must be enrolled in a school to receive school meals. Students attending virtual academies are not eligible to participate in either of the federal school meal programs.
- Meals shall only be provided and served on days when school is in session.