

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) vs. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals

Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs

There are two federal child nutrition programs that provide funding to feed children after the school day has ended, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Afterschool Snack Service and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals. These programs are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs. These programs provide children with a nutritional boost and are an integral part of afterschool activities that are safe, fun, and educational.

NSLP Afterschool Snack Service

Afterschool Snack Service provides reimbursement to school-sponsored afterschool programs for snacks. A School Food Authority (SFA) must participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in order to participate in the Afterschool Snack Service. For programs located at or in the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more of the students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, all snacks served to children are reimbursed at the free rate. Schools under 50% eligibility are reimbursed by category (free, reduced, and paid).

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals provides reimbursement to eligible public and private organizations for serving nutritious snacks and suppers to children, through age eighteen, participating in afterschool care programs located at or in the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more of the students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Offering nutritious snacks or suppers helps makes afterschool programs more appealing to at-risk youth.

Program Qualifications:

Requirements	NSLP Afterschool Snack Service	CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals
Organization Type	Schools SFA must participate in NSLP	Public or private organizations
Afterschool Programming Available	Yes Must be open to all students	Yes Must be open to all students



Located in an Area Eligible Location	No	Yes
Snack Meal Service	Yes	Yes
Supper Meal Service	No	Yes

Choosing the right program for your organization:

- Are you a school or a community program, such as a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club?
 - I am a community program, located in the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
 - You may operate CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals.
 - I am a community program, not located in the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more students eligible for free and or reduced-price meals.
 - You may not operate either program.
 - I am a school that has 50% or more of the students eligible for free or reduced-price meals or located in the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
 - You may operate CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals or NSLP Afterschool Snack Service.
 - I am a school that does not have 50% or more of the students eligible for free or reduced-price meals or is not located in the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more.
 - You may operate NSLP Afterschool Snack Service.

Commonalities Between Programs:

- Must be offered at a site afterschool that provides regularly scheduled enrichment or educational activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment
- Enrichment programming must be available to all students
 - Activities that limit and/or deny participation cannot qualify to participate
 - Program cannot be limited to school sports teams or clubs
 - Programs that include supervised athletic activities may participate, provided the athletic activity is open to all and does not limit membership for reasons other than space or security. Varsity sports programs may participate in the snack service, if they are not the primary program used to establish snack eligibility.
- Requires staff training, including civil rights training

- Proper food safety and sanitation practices must be followed in all steps of food receiving, storage, preparation, service, and handling of leftovers
- Meal pattern requirements must be documented with menus and production records
- Meal counts must be documented with point of service meal counts, monthly consolidated meal counts, and daily attendance records as backup documentation
- Point of Service (POS) meal counts must be taken
- Monitoring visits must be conducted, and monitoring forms completed
- All grains served must be whole grain-rich or enriched.
- Records must be maintained on file for three years, plus the current year

Differences Between Programs:

- NSLP sponsors must conduct monitoring reviews of each site twice per year and the first must occur within the first four weeks of the Program. CACFP sponsors must conduct reviews of each site three times per year, and no more than 6 months may elapse between visits.
- NSLP sponsors must conduct monitoring reviews even if only one site is participating. CACFP sponsors with one site operating are not required to conduct monitoring reviews.
- In CACFP, when a grain is served, at least one grain per day must meet whole grain-rich requirements. In the NSLP Afterschool Snack Service meal pattern, there is no requirement to serve whole grain-rich grains.
- In CACFP, sites may implement Offer versus Serve, where children may decline some of the food offered in the meal. Offer versus Serve may not be implemented in NSLP or CACFP snack.
- In the NSLP Afterschool Snack Service meal pattern, fruits and vegetables credit as one component. In CACFP, fruits and vegetables credit as two different components.

Additional Resources

- [CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program](#)
- [NSLP After School Snacks and Meals](#)
- [CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals in the CACFP Webinar](#)

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