Comparison of Programs SFSP/NSLP/Seamless Option

This is a comparison between the various Child Nutrition summer feeding programs. The purpose of this comparison chart is to inform and encourage more School Food Authorities (SFAs) to provide meals in the summer and other times when school is not in session. Both the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option reduce paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for SFAs to feed children in low-income areas during the summer months or during the extended breaks of a year-round school schedule. Areas where the provisions in the Seamless Summer Option are same as SFSP, rather than NSLP, are highlighted as *Same as SFSP*.

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
Times of Operation	 May – September for traditional school calendar areas October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) During student vacations for schools on a continuous year calendar. 	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school.	Same as SFSP
Meal Service Locations	on a continuous year calendar Schools Camps Churches Community Centers Housing projects Libraries Migrant centers Parks Playgrounds Pools Other public sites where children gather	Schools Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI's)	Same as SFSP
Meal Cost for Children	All meals are free (Although camps are only reimbursed for children who qualify for free or reduced price meals, camp sponsors may, and usually do, provide meals free of charge to all children)	Meal cost (free/reduced price/paid) for children is based on their income eligibility.	Same as SFSP
Establishing Site Eligibility	Open sites: In the attendance area of a school or in a geographic area defined by census data where 50 percent or	Schools: Public and private non- profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of State's	Same as SFSP

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Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
•	more of the children qualify for free or reduced price school meals, and open to community. Enrolled sites: 50 percent or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, determined by approved application, or operate in an eligible area. Migrant sites: Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers. Camps: offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children.	education system. RCCI's: Public and licensed, non-profit, private	•
Type of Meals	 Breakfast Lunch Snack (AM or PM) Supper Lunch & supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site, except for camp and migrant sites. 	BreakfastLunchAfterschool Snacks	Same as SFSP
Maximum Number of Meals	2 meals for most sites 3 meals for migrant sites and camps	Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack	Same as SFSP
Commodities	1.5 cents per meal for sponsors and self-prep sites May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute.	22.25 cents per meal (2011-12 school year) May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute.	Same as NSLP

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Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
Reimbursement Rates	Type of meal or rural Vended Breakfast 1.8800 1.8450 Lunch or Supper 3.2925 3.2375 Snack 0.7750 .7570 Calendar Year 2011 *For the contiguous States only. Rates for Alaska & Hawaii are higher.	More than 60% & severe need Type of Breakfast Lunch Snack meal Paid .27 .28 .07 R/P 1.50 2.39 .38 Free 1.80 2.79 .76 School Year 2011-12 *For the contiguous States only. Rates for Alaska & Hawaii are higher.	All eligible meals provided under seamless option paid at NSLP/SBP applicable free rates
Reimbursement Method	SFSP sponsors receive the maximum reimbursement (meals times rates) without regard to their actual or budgeted costs. Sponsors may use reimbursements to pay for any allowable program cost. Camps are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children.	Total meals by type times the free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal. Extra \$.02 per lunch if 60 percent or more of lunches in second preceding year were free or reduced price Additional payments for free or reduced price breakfasts in severe need schools	If area eligible, all meals reimbursed at NSLP/SBP free rate If applications required (camps or closed enrolled in non-eligible area), free and reduced price meals reimbursed at free NSLP/SBP rate. No reimbursement for paid meal
Monitoring Required of SFA/Sponsors	Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the summer program. Site visits the first week of operation (waived for sites that operated successfully the previous summer). Site review during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed.	Onsite review of lunch counting and claiming system for each school by Feb. 1 st each year.	Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance at least once during each site's operation.

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Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
Monitoring Required of State	Review every 3 years; more frequently based on program size and prior problems identified by the State agency.	Administrative reviews every 5 years.	Administrative reviews every 5 years. Must include one seamless site in an administrative review of a School Food Authority participating in the option.
Meal Pattern	Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards. However, School Food Authorities may substitute NSLP/SBP meal patterns.	Must meet requirement for NSLP in 7 CFR 210.10; or SBP in 7 CFR 220.8.	Same as NSLP/SBP
Eligible Participants	Persons 18 years or younger and persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the State.	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the SA; including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an RCCI.	Same as SFSP
Public Notification	Sponsor must send public media notice regarding program and eligibility.	SFA must send public media notice regarding program and letter or notice with an application to parents for all children in attendance at the school at the beginning of each school year.	Public media notice may be done but is not required. SFA must state in application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will advertise availability of meals to neighborhood community.
Eligible Sponsors	SFAs Local government agencies Private non-profit organizations Universities or Colleges Community & faith-based organizations	SFAs	Same as NSLP

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