

Summer Feeding and Summer Learning Camps in Tennessee

The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act establishes summer learning camps that provide opportunities for students to catch up and accelerate learning. Each summer learning camp also requires at least one meal or snack to be provided daily.

- Learning loss bridge camps require lunch and at least one snack or breakfast to be served daily, five days a week.
- After school learning mini-camps require at least one snack to be served daily.
- Summer learning camps require lunch and at least one snack or breakfast to be served daily, five days a week.

USDA has established two summer feeding programs that are available for communities to feed children during the summer: the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is a continuation of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and is administered by the Department of Education and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is administered by the Department of Human Services. Program sponsors administer summer and emergency feeding programs at the local level. Sponsors must demonstrate financial viability, accountability, and administrative capability to operate a summer feeding program. Only School Food Authorities (SFAs), entities that already administer NSLP, are eligible to become SSO sponsors; SFSP may be sponsored by SFAs or can also be sponsored by other community organizations, including but not limited to, YMCAs, human resource organizations, and local governments.

The summer feeding programs are reimbursable meal programs that feed all children at no cost to them as long as certain economic conditions are met; meaning that meals served to children that meet federal regulations will be reimbursed by a state agency. However, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, USDA has issued an area eligibility waiver allowing summer feeding sites to be established in areas that do not meet the economic requirement through the end of summer 2021.

A maximum of two meals per child per day can be claimed for reimbursement in the summer feeding programs. Any combination of the following meals can be claimed for reimbursement: breakfast, morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack, and supper; however, lunch and supper cannot both be reimbursed. As the requirement set forth in the legislation requires 3 meals to be served to children daily, one of those meals will not be eligible for reimbursement from the federal child nutrition programs. When budgeting for summer learning camps, it is recommended to include funds for the snack requirement.

To leverage the summer feeding programs to meet meal requirements at summer learning camps, consider the following:

- **Partner with your school nutrition director.** Local school nutrition personnel will be able to describe the landscape of the summer feeding in the area. This will include district capacity to perform summer feeding or local partners that typically provide summer meals in the area if the district does not.

- **Develop summer plan.** Once capacity and sites have been determined, create a plan to implement summer feeding programs in conjunction with summer learning camps. Remember to consider the timing of food preparation, transportation, meal distribution, and staffing when creating the plan.

More information on summer feeding flexibilities related to COVID-19 can be found on the [USDA website](#). If you would like additional information regarding summer feeding programs, contact Randa Meade at Randa.Meade@tn.gov.

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