

Meal Supplements (Snacks) under the National School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) offers reimbursement to schools serving nutritious snacks to children participating in after school care programs. After school snacks under the NSLP are authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and, in California, administered by the California Department of Education (CDE), Nutrition Services Division (NSD).

To be eligible for reimbursement of after school snacks, the after school care program must meet the following criteria:

- The program is operated by a school district or agency that participates in the NSLP
- The purpose of the program is to provide structured, supervised care in an after school setting
- The program provides children with regularly scheduled education or enrichment activities

At a minimum, participating NSLP sponsors must maintain the following after school snack records:

- Documentation of the site's area-eligibility (when site claims all snacks at the free rate)
- Documentation of children's free and reduced-price meal eligibility (when site claims snacks based on child's eligibility category)
- Meal counts (total number of snacks served for area-eligible sites and/or snack counts by eligibility category for non-area-eligible sites)
- Documentation of individual children's attendance on a daily basis
- Documentation of compliance with the after school snack meal pattern requirements

Public and private nonprofit schools and districts that participate in the NSLP and operate an after school care program are eligible to be reimbursed for after school snacks. Also eligible are public or private nonprofit residential child care institutions (e.g., group homes, juvenile halls, orphanages, etc.) that participate in the NSLP.

Additional information about after school snacks is available at the following Web sites:

The CDE's School Nutrition Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn>

The CDE's Nutrition Services fiscal information Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/nt/snp.asp>

The USDA Afterschool Snack Program Fact Sheet Web page at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Afterschool/factsheet.htm>

The CDE Snack and Meal Standards for Afterschool Snacks Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/as/afterschoolnutstan.asp>

Developed for the SNP Primer
Cal-Pro-NET Center at San Jose State University
in conjunction with the California Department of Education
October 2018

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