



School Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Programs (SBP), Special Milk Program (SMP), and After School Care Snack Program (ACSP)

These are all USDA reimbursement programs. School Food Authorities (SFA) claim meals and milk served according to Federal and state regulations. CDE Office of School Nutrition (OSN) administers these programs and provides oversight, technical assistance and training for all participating SFAs.

In School year 2013-2014, 80% of all Colorado charter schools participated in the NSLP. Meals, snacks or milk may be claimed for all reimbursable meals, snacks and milk for all students at participating schools, not just students eligible for free or reduced priced meals. .

USDA Foods (formerly known as commodities) is available to all SFAs in the National School Lunch Program. Entitlement is based on the number of lunches served in the prior year. For school year 2014-15 the amount of entitlement is \$0.2475 per lunch. USDA Foods also has fresh produce available through the DOD. Colorado Department of Human Services administers the program in Colorado. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-FDP/FDP/1251567032099> .

Special Milk Program: The Special Milk Program (SMP) is an underutilized program that provides milk to children in public or nonprofit schools that do not participate in any other Federal child nutrition meal service program or any child at a participating school or half-day pre-kindergarten program can receive milk through the SMP. Administered by the CDE-OSN, reimbursement is provided from the USDA for each half pint of milk served. - See more at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutrimilk#sthash.JMnwurMf.dpuf>

Charter School Participation in the School Nutrition Programs

How can a charter school participate in the USDA School Nutrition Programs to provide healthy meals for their students and obtain reimbursement?

1. School District is the SFA:

Every school district in Colorado but Aspen and Hinsdale participate in the School Nutrition Programs. Visit a district school to observe and try a school meal. All school districts are currently certified and meet the new stringent Federal requirements for increased fruits and vegetables, whole grain rich foods, and are low in saturated fat and sodium and meet calorie requirements.

In SY 2013-2014, 79% of all participating charter schools participated through their school district. The school district food service directors provide the meals, program oversight and they claim for reimbursement for charter schools as they would their other district schools. Some districts may assess a fee for this service, and that is negotiated between the charter school and the district.

2. Join a Charter School SFA or Charter School Collaborative SFA.

Colorado Senate Bill 09-230 and CCR 301-82 provided for charter schools to become their own SFA, join another charter school SFA and in SY 13-14 to join a charter school collaborative SFA. For SY 2014-15, there are three individual charter school SFAs. Charter School Institute is a charter school SFA.

In 2013-14, CharterChoice Collaborative provided services as a SFA for several charter schools. CharterChoice completed all the required functions for the participating charter schools and successfully completed a CDE Administrative Review.

3. Apply to be an individual Charter SFA

A charter school may apply by February 15 of any year and be approved for the following school year. The individual charter school is required to comply with all Federal, state and local regulations. .

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutricharterschools> . Contact Jan Bodnar at 303-866-6306 or bodnar_j@cde.state.co.us with any questions or more information.