# School Year 2026-27
# Child Nutrition Programs Reimbursement Rates




## Quick Reference Guide for Colorado Sponsors

**1** **Find your USDA reimbursement rate.** Locate the applicable rate in the USDA section below.

**2** **Find your applicable State reimbursement rate.** Add the State rate(s) that apply to your program.

**3** **Total the amounts to determine your reimbursement.** Combine USDA and State rates.

### BREAKFAST

| Reimbursement Type | Rate Type | Paid | Reduced | Free |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **USDA** | Regular | $0.42 | $2.24 | $2.54 |
| **USDA** | Severe Need Breakfast[1] | $0.42 | $2.75 | $3.05 |
| **State** | Healthy School Meals for All[3] | $2.12 | — | — |
| **State** | Smart Start | — | $0.30 | — |

### LUNCH

| Reimbursement Type | Rate Type | Paid | Reduced | Free |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **USDA** | Regular | $0.54 | $4.45 | $4.85 |
| **USDA** | Two-Cent Differential[2] | $0.56 | $4.47 | $4.87 |
| **State** | Healthy School Meals for All[3] | $4.31 | — | — |
| **State** | Lunch Protection | — | $0.40 | — |

### OTHER PROGRAMS

| Reimbursement Type | Rate Type | Paid | Reduced | Free |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **USDA** | After School Snack Program | $0.12 | $0.65 | $1.30 |
| **USDA** | Special Milk Program | $0.28 | — | Avg. cost per ½ pint |

Lunch rates include the additional performance-based $0.09 reimbursement. Sponsors certified as meeting meal pattern requirements receive this rate, except new sponsors not yet certified.

*Page 2 includes examples and additional resources*

## School Year 2026-27

# Child Nutrition Programs Reimbursement Rates




## Examples

### 1 Healthy School Meals for All Breakfast Reimbursement

*A sponsor participating in HSMA would receive the following reimbursement:*

| | Paid | Reduced | Free |
|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Reimbursement | $0.42 | $2.24 | $2.54 |
| State Reimbursement | +$2.12 (HSMA) | +$0.30 (Start Smart) | - |
| **Total Reimbursement** | **$2.54** | **$2.54** | **$2.54** |

SNB qualified sites
+$0.51 to Reduced & Free Rates

### 2 Healthy School Meals for All Lunch Reimbursement

*A sponsor participating in HSMA would receive the following reimbursement:*

| | Paid | Reduced | Free |
|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Reimbursement | $0.54 | $4.45 | $4.85 |
| State Reimbursement | +$4.31 (HSMA) | +$0.40 (Lunch Protection) | - |
| **Total Reimbursement** | **$4.85** | **$4.85** | **$4.85** |

Two Cent Qualified sponsors
+$0.02 to Paid, Reduced, & Free Rates

## Eligibility Notes

[1] **Severe Need Breakfast**: Available only to schools that qualify based on free and reduced-price lunch data or the school's CEP ISP.

[2] **Two-Cent Differential**: Available only to school food authorities that qualify based on free and reduced-price lunch data or districtwide CEP participation and ISP.

[3] **Healthy School Meals for All**: Available only to eligible sponsors that opt in to HSMA.

## Resources

- Severe Need Breakfast Eligibility
- Two Cent Differential Eligibility
  - CEP Severe Need Breakfast and Two Cent Differential (page 20)
- State Programs Reimbursement
- USDA Rates of Reimbursement
- How to Claim

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.