
THE SCHOOL-BASED AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM

1. What is the Afterschool Snack Program?

The Afterschool Snack Program is a federally assisted snack program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. The Afterschool Snack Program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service. At the State level, the program is usually administered by State education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with local school food authorities in 25,978 schools and institutions.

2. How does the Afterschool Snack Program work?

The Afterschool Program operates similar to the National School Lunch Program. Generally, public or nonprofit private schools of high school grade or under and public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate in the Afterschool Snack Program. School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the snack program receive cash subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each snack they serve. In return, they must serve snacks that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced price snacks to eligible children.

3. What sites are eligible to participate in the school-based afterschool snacks program?

In order for a site to participate, a school district must run the National School Lunch Program and sponsor or operate an afterschool care program. This afterschool care program which must provide children with regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a supervised environment. Contact your State agency for further information regarding program eligibility. Both Area Eligible (see question #4 below) and non-Area Eligible sites can participate in the school-based Afterschool Snack Program.

4. How is Area Eligible defined?

A site is area eligible if it is located at a school or in the attendance area of a school where at least 50% of the enrolled children are eligible for free and reduced price meals. For more information, please review the afterschool snacks frequently asked questions at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/afterschool/>

5. What are the food requirements for afterschool snacks?

Afterschool snacks must contain at least two different components of the following four: a serving of fluid milk; a serving of meat or meat alternate; a serving of vegetables or fruits or full strength vegetable or fruit juice; a serving of whole grain or enriched bread or cereal.

6. How do children qualify for free and reduced price afterschool snacks?

Any child at a participating school may purchase a snack through the Afterschool Snack Program. If it is an area-eligible site all children receive a snack at no charge. See question #8 if the site is not area eligible.

7. How much reimbursement do schools get?

USDA provides a cash reimbursement for each snack served to schools in the Afterschool Snack Program. The current (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) basic cash reimbursement rates are:

Free afterschool snacks \$0.80

Reduced-price snacks \$0.40

Paid snacks \$0.07

Higher reimbursement rates are in effect for Alaska and Hawaii. For the latest reimbursement rates visit FNS website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/rates-reimbursement>

8. What if my site is not Area Eligible?

School sites that are not area eligible must use a child's free and reduced-price status to determine eligibility for the afterschool snack program. If an applicant's eligibility status is not on file, the household must submit a free and reduced-price application to become eligible for free, or reduced price afterschool snacks. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free snacks. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price snacks. (For the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$30,615 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$43,568.) Children from families over 185 percent of poverty pay full price, though their snacks are still subsidized to some extent.

9. What if my school does not participate?

If a school does not participate, you may still qualify for snack reimbursement under the Child and Adult Care Food Program. To find out more, please contact your State Agency.

10. How much does the program cost?

For Fiscal Year 2012, the Afterschool Snack Program cost \$169.7 million, up from \$54 million in Fiscal Year 2001.

For more information:

For information on the operation of the Afterschool Snack Program and all the Child Nutrition Programs, contact the State agency in your state that is responsible for the administration of the programs. A listing of all our State agencies may be found on our web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/office-type/child-nutrition-programs>, select your State from the drop down box and select “Apply.”

You may also contact us through the Communication Division at 703-305-2281, or by mail at 3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 926, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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