
Vermont Agency of Education Announces Child Nutrition Programs Available for Students

For Immediate Release

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Montpelier, VT- The Vermont Agency of Education announced the availability of federal child nutrition programs for the 2024-2025 school year. All public schools in Vermont, and many independent schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Because of Vermont's universal meals law, these schools can offer free meals through either the [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#), or [Provision 2](#).

This year, many more locations qualify to offer free after school snacks and meals through area-eligibility. Vermont's participation in the [Medicaid direct certification demonstration project](#) has improved data sharing, and a [recent federal rule change](#) makes it easier for schools to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision. These two factors have made more towns eligible to offer free afterschool snacks and meals. More towns will also be eligible to have free open meal sites next summer. After School Programs and non-profit organizations that have not previously offered the federal child nutrition programs are encouraged to learn more.

- [At-Risk After School Meals](#)
- [After School Snack Service in the NSLP](#)
- [Summer Food Service Program](#)

Many childcare centers, family day care homes, and some adult day centers also offer meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Some of these programs offer free meals to all attendees based on the demographics of the site.

A few programs do not offer meals to everyone. These include five independent schools that charge for meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, some CACFP programs, and some schools participating in the After School Snack Service.

At these locations, participants whose household income falls below the [child nutrition income eligibility guidelines](#), or who are categorically eligible through other programs can qualify for free or reduced-price meals or snacks. Examples of categorically eligible participants include those that:

- Receive 3SquaresVT or Reach Up
- Participate in Head Start
- Are part of the Migrant Education Program

- Receive services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act or the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
- Are in state-placed foster care

These guidelines are effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations to ensure all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of its leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont's public education system.

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