

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Free Meals Policy Statement for Non-pricing Programs

Summer 2025

This policy is used by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [SFSP regulations](#). If any part of this policy conflicts with the SFSP regulations or memoranda issued by the USDA, the federal regulations and memoranda shall take precedence.



Criteria for Disallowance

All meals served in the SFSP must comply with the SFSP regulations ([7 CFR 225](#)) and the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#). Meals served in any of the following scenarios do not comply with the SFSP regulations and will be disallowed by the CSDE.

1. If the CSDE determines that a sponsor has failed to plan, prepare, or order meals with the objective of providing only one meal per child at each meal service at a site, the CSDE shall disallow the number of children's meals prepared or ordered in excess of the number of children.
2. If the CSDE observes meal service violations when conducting a site review, the CSDE shall disallow all meals observed to be in violation. Examples of meal violations include meals that do not comply with the SFSP meal pattern, adult meals and meals carried off-site.
3. The CSDE shall disallow children's meals that are in excess of a site's approved level established under section [225.6\(h\)\(2\)](#) of the SFSP regulations.

Procedure for Disallowance

The disallowance procedure for meals that do not comply with SFSP regulations includes the steps indicated below.

1. The CSDE will log the information into the SFSP Disallowance Log.
2. The CSDE will notify the sponsor of the date, Summer Meals site, number of meals impacted, and justification for meal disallowance.
3. The CSDE will require that the sponsor notes "meals disallowed" on the daily site meal count sheet and sponsor meal count consolidation and retains these records on file.
4. The CSDE will review the daily site meal count sheet and sponsor meal count consolidation during administrative review to ensure that the sponsor did not claim meals for reimbursement by SFSP funds.

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For information on the SFSP, visit the CSDE's [SFSP webpage](#) or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) at the CSDE's Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/sfsp_policies_disallowing_meals.pdf.

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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