



# PARTNERING WITH CHILD NUTRITION: WHY CHILD NUTRITION NEEDS YOU

Stephanie Alsbrook, MS, RDN, LD  
Assistant Director of Healthy Schools  
Child Nutrition Unit  
Arkansas Department of Education

Nancy Dill, RDN, LD  
Assistant Director of Program Support  
Child Nutrition Unit  
Arkansas Department of Education



# OBJECTIVES

---

- ✘ Provide an overview of Child Nutrition Programs in Arkansas
- ✘ Show the impact of Child Nutrition Programs in Arkansas
- ✘ Discuss opportunities for Child Nutrition Directors and Homeless Liaisons to partner at the local level



# A HISTORY HERE



## ✕ Earnestine Camp

- + 1943 - Is credited with starting one of the first School Lunch Programs at Yellville-Summit School District
- + 1953 – joined the Department of Education
- + Retired 1988
- + Passed Away December 6, 2012

## ✕ 1946 – National School Lunch Act is signed

## ✕ 1948 – Arkansas has its first statewide School Nutrition Workshop

## ✕ 1965 – Arkansas has first graduating class of food service managers



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## ✕ Today's Child Nutrition Unit

### + Manages 5 Programs for Arkansas' Public and Charter Schools

- ✕ National School Lunch Program
- ✕ National School Breakfast Program
- ✕ Seamless Summer Option
- ✕ Afterschool Snack Program
- ✕ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

### + And other special provisions

- ✕ Provision 2
- ✕ Community Eligibility Provision



# STUDENTS FED IN SY 2016-17

---

- ✖ 254 school districts and public charter schools
- ✖ Total Enrollment: 477,268 students
- ✖ Total Breakfasts: 30,214,757
- ✖ Total Lunches: 51,746,215
- ✖ Arkansas Child Nutrition Unit reimburses approximately \$188 million to schools annually



# REIMBURSEMENT AND COST

---

- ✕ Lunch Reimbursement = \$3.55
- ✕  $\frac{1}{2}$  for labor
- ✕ Leaving \$1.77 for food
  - + .40 per carton of milk
  - + Leaving \$1.37 (about .34 cents each) for
    - ✕ Whole Grain-Rich serving
    - ✕ Fruit
    - ✕ Vegetable
    - ✕ Protein

# LUNCH MEAL PATTERN

	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Fruits (cups)	2 ½ ( ½ )	2 ½ ( ½ )	5 (1)
Vegetables (cups)	3 ¾ ( ¾ )	3 ¾ ( ¾ )	5 (1)
Dark Green	½	½	½
Red/Orange	¾	¾	1 ¼
Beans/Peas	½	½	½
Starchy	½	½	½
Other	½	½	¾
Additional Veg to Reach Total	1	1	1 ½
Grains (oz eq)	8-9 (1)	8-10 (1)	10-12 (2)
Meats/Meat Altern.	8-10 (1)	9-10 (1)	10-12 (2)
Fluid Milk (cups)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)

Note: Amount of Food Per Week (minimum per day)



# OTHER SPECIFICATIONS LUNCH

	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Min-max Calories	550-650	600-700	750-850
Saturated Fat	< 10% of total cal	< 10% of total cal	< 10% of total cal
Sodium	≤ 1,230	≤ 1,360	≤ 1,420
Trans Fat	0 per serving	0 per serving	0 per serving

# BREAKFAST MEAL PATTERN

	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Fruits or Vegetables (cups)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
Grains (oz eq)	7-10 (1)	8-10 (1)	9-10 (1)
Meats/Meat Altern.	0	0	0
Fluid Milk (cups)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)

For breakfast, vegetables may be substituted for fruits, but the first two cups per week of any such substitution must be from the dark green, red/orange, beans and peas or “other vegetables.”



# OTHER SPECIFICATIONS BREAKFAST

	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Min-max Calories	350-500	400-550	450-600
Saturated Fat	< 10% of total cal	< 10% of total cal	< 10% of total cal
Sodium	≤ 540	≤ 600	≤ 640
Trans Fat	0 per serving	0 per serving	0 per serving

# THE HOMELESS LIST

---

- ✖ National School Lunch Program provides meals to students each day
- ✖ Students are charged for meals based on their eligibility status (free, reduced, or paid)
- ✖ Students may be determined free based on household income, SNAP, or categorically eligible for free meals (homeless, migrant, foster child, resides in an RCCI, Even Start, or Head Start)



# HOW YOU CAN HELP CHILD NUTRITION

- ✘ Child Nutrition Directors or district determining officials do not make the determination for the categorically eligible students. (only from the SNAP (Direct Certification) list
- ✘ Child Nutrition obtains these names of students from the homeless liaison, the migrant coordinator, the courts, counselor.

# ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION

Based on 7 CFR 245.2

- A dated, signed list from the homeless liaison of names of homeless children including the effective date of homelessness
- A dated, signed letter from a homeless liaison provided by the household to the school confirming a student's homelessness.

Source: *United States Department of Agriculture Eligibility Manual for School Meals, 2017*



# MEAL STATUS EFFECTS REIMBURSEMENT

	Regular Breakfast	Severe Need Breakfast	Regular Lunches	Safety Net Lunches	Afterschool Snacks
Free	\$1.75	\$2.09	\$3.23	\$3.25	\$0.88
Reduced Price	\$1.45	\$1.79	\$2.83	\$2.85	\$0.44
Paid	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.31	\$0.33	\$0.08

# FREE AND REDUCED NUMBERS AFFECT:

- ✘ Districts with a high percentage of free and reduced students receive more reimbursement for the Federal Child Nutrition Program
- ✘ Free and reduced numbers effect the level of NSLA (State Special Needs) funding that a district receives per student

# GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

---

- ✘ Eligibility is good for the entire year (July 1-June 30)
- ✘ Eligibility can change within the year if the student will receive a better benefit
- ✘ Eligibility carries over into the next school year for the first 30 operating days (days that meals are actually served)
- ✘ If a student is categorically eligible for free meals and also receives SNAP benefits, the SNAP benefits take precedence over all other categorical eligibility







































# RESOURCES

---

- ✖ <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/child-nutrition-unit>
- ✖ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/>
- ✖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Eligibility Manual for School Meals, 2017