

# Options for Serving Preschool Students



This chart outlines options for serving meals to preschool students enrolled in Colorado.

Program	National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
State Agency	Colorado Department of Education, School Nutrition Unit	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Program Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any public or private/non-public approved School Food Authority (SFA) that has an income-based program or offers instructional time during the school day                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A SFA means the governing body responsible for the administration of one or more schools that has the legal authority to operate the NSLP and/or SBP</li> <li>Instructional time means a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development</li> <li><u>School district calendar and instructional time guidance</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any public or private nonprofit institution or facility or any for-profit center, that is licensed or approved to provide nonresidential child care services to enrolled children</li> <li>Child care centers may participate in the CACFP as independent centers or under a sponsoring organization</li> </ul>
Site Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be licensed through the <u>Colorado Department of Early Childhood</u>,</li> <li>Be part of a SFA,</li> <li>Offer instructional time during the school day for preschool aged students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be licensed through the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, AND</li> <li>A 501-c3 nonprofit, OR</li> <li>A for-profit child care center with at least 25% of enrolled children or licensed capacity from families at 185% of the federal poverty line or below. Qualifying family income can be established through determination of eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.</li> </ul>

Program	National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
Participant Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children up to 5 years old</li> <li>• Households will receive meal benefits based on their student's eligibility status (i.e. free, reduced-price or paid meals). Households may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals by submitting an income application or by participating in other assistance programs.</li> <li>• UPK eligibility does not mean a child automatically qualifies for free meals</li> <li>• If a SFA participates in the <u>Healthy School Meals for All program</u>, preschool students will also receive free meals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants and children under age 13.</li> <li>• Migrant children under age 15.</li> <li>• Individuals with disabilities who receive care in a child care center where most participants are under age 18.</li> <li>• Cost of meals can be part of tuition or charged as a separate fee</li> </ul>
Days & Hours of Operation	Any school day that K-12 school is in session and instructional time is offered for preschool aged students	Any day the child care program is open and provides care for children.
Allowable Meals*	<p>Sites may claim up to one breakfast and lunch per day</p> <p>Snacks may be allowable if eligibility requirements are met and must be applied for separately. <u><a href="#">View this chart for more information.</a></u></p>	<p>Any combination of meals and snacks up to a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two meals and a snack, OR</li> <li>• Two snacks and a meal</li> </ul>
Meal Pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If pre-school students eat with other age/grade groups (i.e. K-5 students), SFAs may follow the <u>NSLP</u> and <u>SBP</u> meal patterns</li> <li>• If pre-school students eat separate of other age/grade groups, SFAs must follow the <u>preschool meal pattern</u>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Infant meal pattern</u></li> <li>• <u>3-5 year old meal pattern</u></li> </ul>
Contact Information	<p><u><a href="https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition">https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition</a></u></p> <p>Phone: 720-660-5499</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:link_k@cde.state.co.us">link_k@cde.state.co.us</a></p>	<p><u><a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/CACFP">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/CACFP</a></u></p> <p>Phone: 303-692-2330</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:cacfp@state.co.us">cacfp@state.co.us</a></p>



\* A school district may not claim meals and snacks under the CACFP and NSLP/SBP for the same children over the same hours of the day. If a district offers an early childhood program (preschool or child care) and would like to serve those children snacks or meals through a federal child nutrition program, the district must choose to enroll the site through CACFP or through NSLP/SBP. The children cannot participate in both programs at the same time. For example, if a child is enrolled in an early childhood program and participates in NSLP/SBP, that child cannot also be enrolled in CACFP to receive an AM snack. Some scenarios of allowable vs. not allowable include:

Allowable:

A preschool program operates and has instructional time from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for one group of students and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for another group of students and participates in the CACFP. The preschool program may offer breakfast and snack to the group of students that are there from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and lunch and snack to the group of students there from 11:30 am to 3:00pm.

OR

A preschool program operates and has instructional time from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and participates in NSLP/SBP. The preschool program may offer breakfast and lunch under NSLP/SBP. Breakfast must be served before 10:00 a.m. and lunch may not be served until after 10:00 a.m.

OR

A preschool program operates and has instructional time from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for one group of children and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for another group of students and participates in NSLP/SBP. The preschool program may offer breakfast and lunch for the group of children that are there from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and lunch to the children there from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Breakfast must be served before 10:00 a.m. and lunch must be served between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

OR

A center provides child care from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with preschool instructional time from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and participates in the CACFP. A student may receive up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal while in care.

Not allowable:

A preschool program operates from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and participates in the CACFP and the NSLP/SBP. The preschool program serves children breakfast under the School Breakfast Program, mid-morning snack under the CACFP, and lunch under the National School Lunch Program.

