



COLORADO
Department of Education

SNAP Benefits Update

10/23/25



With the federal government shutdown, November SNAP benefits will be delayed.

Key Context

- **600,000** Coloradans use SNAP; half are children
- School breakfast and lunch meals continue to be a critical resource

State of Colorado's Response

- Request to the JBC: up to \$10M to support food banks and pantries; extension of approved WIC funding through November
- Fundraising through Feeding Colorado
- Continued community support through Feeding Colorado (2-1-1 or feedingcolorado.org/find-food)

What can schools and districts do to support families?

- [Find information about SNAP usage in your community](#)
- [SNAP recipient heatmap showing SNAP recipients by county](#)
- Share information about how to access food banks and food pantries
- Maximizing school meals & reducing food waste and encourage participation in breakfast and lunch programs

What can schools and districts do to support families?

Share resources ([English and Spanish messages for families](#))

- Colorado 211: Call 2-1-1- or 866-760-6489 or visit www.211colorado.org
- Feeding Colorado: Visit www.feedingcolorado.org/find-food or email info@feedingcolorado.org
- Hunger Free Colorado Food Resource Hotline: 855-855-4626

Encourage participation in school breakfast - optional social media language below

- *Did you know that our district provides both breakfast AND lunch? Breakfast is served starting at <TIME.> Learn more: [LINK TO YOUR MEALS INFO](#)*
- *¿Sabías que nuestro distrito ofrece desayuno Y almuerzo? El desayuno se sirve a partir de las <TIME.> Más información: [LINK TO YOUR MEALS INFO](#)*

School Meal Claims

- CDE has federal funding for meals that were served between August and October
- Depending on the duration of the shutdown and when USDA services resume, claims could be delayed for meals that were served during the month of November
- *Federal statute requires that the government reimburse for federal meal programs, even during a shutdown*
- As a reminder, per federal guidelines, districts have up to [60 days to file reimbursements](#) after the end of each month – and that does not change during a federal shutdown
- We encourage districts to follow their typical processes for submitting claims during this time

Maximizing School Meals & Reducing Food Waste

- Be sure students have adequate time to eat breakfast and lunch at school
- Utilize share tables to provide extra food/milk to students that want/need it
- Share tables are stations/carts where students can place unopened food/milk
- These can be in place during breakfast and lunch meal service

Resources: [Food Safety & Food Waste Strategies](#)



Breakfast tends to see less participation compared to lunch.

- Last SY: 194,000 breakfasts served daily vs 447,000 lunches served daily
- Breakfast after the bell models help increase usage:
 - Breakfast in the Classroom
 - Grab and Go in hallways or cafeterias
 - Second Chance Breakfast after homeroom or first period



cdeinfo.org/breakfast

Communications to Food Service Directors

We've sent out information and will continue to do so on the following topics:

- Meal claim information
- Share table state and federal guidelines
- Breakfast after the bell meal service options
- The importance of continuing school meals
- To prep for participation increases



School Meal Questions?

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