

Combating Hunger Daily

SCHOOL MEALS MAY BE A CHILD'S ONLY MEALS. THE SEAMLESS SUMMER OPTION PROVIDES GEORGIA'S CHILDREN ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS MEALS EVEN WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT.

Want to Make a Difference?

Become a Volunteer

Find a Seamless Summer Site and volunteer to help serve meals, or provide an activity that makes summer fun.

Run a Site

A site is the physical location where meals can be served during a specified time. Although the School Food Authority is responsible for your community's SSO, the location for meal services may vary (as listed on the inside page of this brochure). Each site has its own criteria for eligibility. Sites are also free to sponsor a community activity during meal service times as another incentive for participants.

Attend Trainings

The Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program offers training each year to schools that are currently, or are interested in, participating in SSO. Training covers important and current information about facilitating a program. It is also an opportunity to network and share ideas.

Steps for Success

Plan Effective Outreach Strategies

A successful program requires participation from the community. Therefore, it is important that information about SSO is shared effectively. Outreach to the community will increase the number of children who receive nutritious meals from your program.

Here are a few examples to get you started:

- Request media coverage
- Send letters home to parents
- Host a kick-off event
- Create a flier that includes a calendar of activities and menus on the back.

Coordinate Support

Attracting a winning team of staff and volunteers is another key to success. As you plan announcements for families, consider outreach to gain community partnerships and support. By communicating the purpose and goals of SSO to your community, you will gain support from individuals who desire to join you in serving free nutritious meals to children.

GOOD NUTRITION IS MORE THAN JUST FOR TEST DAYS. IT IS FOR LEARNING DAYS AND IS IMPORTANT ALL YEAR, WHEN SCHOOL IS IN AND OUT OF SESSION. SUMMER MEALS PREPARE STUDENTS SO THAT THEY ARE READY TO LEARN.

*For more information about Seamless Summer Option, contact
The Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program at nutritioninfo@doe.k12.ga.us*

*To find meals and sites in your community, dial 211 or text FreeFood to 877877.
You may also call the National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE.*



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

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Feeding Georgia's Kids **SUMMER MEALS**



*Serving our Children,
Free, Nutritious Meals*

**Georgia School
Nutrition
Program**



Seamless Summer Option

SERVING NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

Seamless Summer Option

During the academic year, School Nutrition Programs in Georgia cumulatively serve approximately .5 million breakfasts and 1.1 million lunches daily. More than 65% of these meals are provided at a free and reduced-price; through the National School Breakfast (SBP) and National School Lunch Programs (NSLP). These national programs are a necessity which ensures that all children have access to nutritious meals daily.

But what happens once school is out for the Summer?

The USDA recognizes the importance of school meals as a key to combat childhood hunger; and has implemented the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) so that communities can continue feeding children through summer

months. It is designed to be a streamlined approach to feeding hungry children in your local community.

Want to help end hunger this summer?

School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP or SBP are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option. Once approved through their governing state agency, SFAs serve meals free of charge to children, 18 years and under, from low-income areas.

Sites that may participate in SSO are categorized as one of the following:

Open Sites

All children eat free in communities where at least 50% of the children are eligible for free/reduced price school meals.

Restricted Open Sites

Sites that meet the open site criteria, but are later restricted for safety, control, or security reasons.

Closed Enrolled Sites

Sites that may be in any community for an enrolled group of low-income children and meets the 50% criteria. This excludes academic summer schools.

Migrant Sites

Sites serving children of migrant families.

Camps

Residential or non-residential camps.

Accountability

Since SSO is regulated by the state agency, the same NSLP and SBP rules apply for meal service. Meals served are reimbursed at the NSLP and/or SBP "free" rates.

Meal Service Locations

Meals may be served in any of the following locations:

- Schools
- Camps
- Churches
- Community Centers
- Housing projects
- Libraries
- Institutions (RCCI's)
- Migrant centers
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Pools
- Other public sites where children gather

Types of Meals

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Snack (AM or PM) • Supper

Lunch & supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site, except for camp and migrant sites.

Meal Cost for Children

All meals provided by the Seamless Summer Option are free to children and teenagers ages 1-18.

Monitoring Requirements

Seamless Summer Option Sites are required to follow the same USDA regulations as those set by the NSLP and SBP. This means that each site must have a review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance at least once during the site's operation.

The Georgia Department of Education conducts administrative reviews every 5 years.

Public Notice

Public media notice is not required, but is highly recommended. However, the School Food Authority (SFA) must state in its application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will advertise availability of meals to neighborhood community.

Add Site Information to:

The United Way 211 Database:
[211online.unitedwayatlanta.org](https://www.unitedwayatlanta.org)

National Hunger Clearinghouse Database:
[whyhunger.org](https://www.whyhunger.org)

