

SPRING 2019

School Food

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION, INC. in Florida



**The After-School
Meal Program
Facing off Against
Hunger...**

...And winning.

The Afterschool Meals Program: A Triple Win for School Districts



BY: KATIE WILLIAMS, MPH
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
FLORIDA IMPACT TO END HUNGER

THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD Program, At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program (AMP), is a federal nutrition program that offers reimbursement for meals and/or snacks that meet specific U.S. Department of Agriculture meal pattern requirements and are served at school-based or community-based, public, non-profit and some for-profit afterschool enrichment sites. Snacks, breakfasts, lunches, and suppers are available through the program, including on weekends and school holidays.

Schools are the ideal locations to host afterschool programs and serve meals. Schools have the facilities, equipment, staff, and skills needed to prepare and serve food. With extracurricular activities already occurring at many schools, an afterschool snack or meal is a natural fit. If at least half the students at the school are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals, or if the school is within the boundary of a public school that meets the threshold, then it can serve meals free of charge to students. Through the AMP, children and youth can receive a snack (which includes two items such as apple and milk) and/or a supper (which includes five items, such as a turkey sandwich, an apple, carrot sticks, and milk). The only requirements are that the meals are supervised, the children remain on campus while eating, and that an enrichment activity of some sort (e.g. sports, crafts, tutoring, computers, etc.) is offered. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered in Florida by the Department of Health, Bureau of Child Care Food Program (CCFP).

Making “Cents” of the AMP:

The reimbursement rate for a supper is more than three and a half times the reimbursement for a snack. All meals are reimbursed at the free rate, regardless of individual children’s eligibility status. Schools that have implemented the AMP report that the reimbursements cover basic costs, and can sometimes provide for additional equipment purchases, extra hours or overtime for employees, and in some cases can even be enough to create new positions.

Streamlined Process for School Food Authorities

In 2012, the USDA released a memo outlining specific accommodations offered to school food authorities that removed some of the barriers to participate in the AMP. The streamlined AMP requirements for school districts makes the requirements more aligned with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), including:

- Brief application and training process
- Reduced staff training requirements
- Removal of many administrative requirements, including separate budget, management plan, accounting and allocation of costs, food storage, and pre-approval site visits.
- Ability to follow NSLP procurement standards, meal pattern, offer vs. serve, and requirements for contracting with food service management companies.
- Ability to align monitoring of sites with NSLP monitoring
- Ability to use any excess AMP reimbursement for any USDA child nutrition programs offered in district schools.

“We currently offer the AMP to 32 of our sites. We are in our third year and the program is very strong. We have cold and hot menus and serve the meal at various times in order to accommodate the sites circumstances, the coordinators, and the students.”

*MARIA EUNICE, MS, SNS
DIRECTOR, ALACHUA COUNTY*

AMP Landscape among Florida Districts:

Millions of children around the country rely on their schools for nutritious meals, which they may not have access to at home. When students eat lunch between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, they are in much need of full-sized snack or meal to keep them alert and active through the remainder of the day. This is especially true if they are not picked up from the afterschool program until 6 p.m. School food and nutrition departments and afterschool program staff recognize that the program supports working families, gives students more energy, and even boosts afterschool attendance.

Still, currently only 27 of the 67 school districts in Florida are participating in the AMP. Would you like to start a program in your district? There are school districts that have been successfully participating in AMP for several years and can provide helpful information and resources. To see which school districts are currently participating in the AMP, visit the Child Care Food Program’s website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/child-care-food-program/index.html> and click on the Afterschool Meals Program Sites link.



Overall, the AMP is a triple WIN for school districts. It contributes to student performance in academics and enrichment activities, offers quality nutrition through a more substantial meal for children and youth, and provides a higher reimbursement to support the operations of the school nutrition programs.

Florida Impact to End Hunger is dedicated to advancing health equity by ending hunger for all Floridians. We mobilize communities to maximize access to federal, state, and local nutrition programs with a focus on Florida's most vulnerable populations. Florida Impact to End Hunger provides strategic program outreach, technical assistance, and advocacy to schools, school districts, and nonprofits working with at-risk children.

For more information on various delivery models and other ways of increasing breakfast participation, please contact kwilliams@flimpact.org.

RESOURCES:
WWW.FLORIDAAFTERSCHOOLMEALS.ORG
WWW.BESTPRACTICES.NOKIDHUNGRY.ORG
WWW.FRAC.ORG/PROGRAMS/AFTERSCHOOL-NUTRITION-PROGRAMS
[HTTPS://WWW.FNS.USDA.GOV/CACFP/AFTERSCHOOL-PROGRAMS](https://WWW.FNS.USDA.GOV/CACFP/AFTERSCHOOL-PROGRAMS)

NO KID HUNGRY AND SCHOOL NUTRITION FOUNDATION THREE MEALS A DAY: A WIN-WIN-WIN: A GUIDE TO STARTING AND IMPROVING YOUR AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM.
[HTTP://BESTPRACTICES.NOKIDHUNGRY.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/DOWNLOAD-RESOURCE](http://BESTPRACTICES.NOKIDHUNGRY.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/DOWNLOAD-RESOURCE)

“For many students in Pasco County, the AMP bridges the hunger gap between their lunch period and getting home in the evening after their enrichment programs. But for other students, the ASMP may be that student’s only food until the next morning.”

*JULIE HEDINE, RD/LDN, SNS
DIRECTOR, PASCO COUNTY*

