

Water

Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs (School Meal Programs and CACFP) must ensure that children participating in child nutrition programs have access to free, potable water during the lunch and breakfast **meal services**. Child care, day care homes, at-risk afterschool programs, and shelters participating in CACFP must also provide free, potable water available **during the day**.

Requirements:

- ✓ Water can be made available to students through options including:
 - Water pitchers and cups on cafeteria tables
 - Water fountain
 - Faucet that allows students to fill their own bottles or cups with drinking water
- ✓ Children must be allowed to freely access water during the entire meal service.
- ✓ Water is not part of the reimbursable meal and children are not required to take water.
- ✓ If NSLP meals are served in multiple locations, water must be available at each location
 - Including when students are required to consume meals outside the cafeteria (ie: in-school suspension).
- ✓ Water requirements for the SBP apply only when breakfast is served in the cafeteria.
- ✓ Water must be made available to students participating in the Afterschool Snack Program and Seamless Summer Option.

Details:

- ✓ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates public water systems and provides resources related to safe drinking water.
- ✓ The EPA recommends that water be tested routinely for lead and copper contamination and overall water safety.
- ✓ The local health department or water testing facility can provide resources and information about water testing laboratories.
- ✓ Water testing costs and repairs to plumbing can be paid from the nonprofit school food service account IF the costs are determined to be reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the Federal meal programs.
 - Costs must be analyzed on a case by case basis in order to determine if the cost is truly reasonable.

Reference:

- ✓ [SP 49-2016 CACFP 18-2016 Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)
- ✓ [SP 28-2011 Water Availability During NSLP Meal Service](#)
- ✓ [CACFP 20-2016 Water Availability in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

Resources:

- ✓ [EPA - Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)

Acronym Reference

-CACFP	Child and Adult Care Food Program
-CNS	Child Nutrition Services
-EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
-NSLP	National School Lunch Program
-OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
-SP	School Programs