



Florida School Nutrition Association 2024 Position Paper

As of January 16, 2024

FSNA Mission

To advance child nutrition programs that promote wellness and academic success, while promoting leadership development opportunities to members.

About the School Nutrition Program

The Florida School Nutrition Program is a federally and state-funded breakfast, lunch, and snack/supper program. Public, charter and non-profit private schools have the opportunity to provide great tasting, nutritious, low cost or free meals to children on school days. Florida is third in the nation in student participation and number of meals served.

Current FSNA Initiatives

1. Develop a sustainable plan to increase fresh Florida produce in school meals.

School nutrition programs provide 5 to 7 servings of fruits and vegetables per day through breakfast, lunch, snack and supper meals. While schools purchased about \$64 million in Florida products during 2019, FSNA's goal is to increase the number of farmers in the Farm to School program. When procuring fresh local produce districts face barriers such as limited funds to spend, and limited capacity to assist smaller farmers with the complex procurement policies. FSNA is committed to bridging the gaps by working with small farmers to increase purchasing opportunities and develop new supply chain strategies, which will also benefit the Florida economy.

In the fall of 2023 FSNA submitted a Local Foods for Schools grant proposal; in 2024 the USDA and FDACS have awarded \$6.5 million to FSNA to provide locally grown produce to schools in 13 rural Florida districts. The goal is to develop business models and navigation strategies to bring school procurement departments together with local providers to build and expand distribution methods to schools in rural counties. To sustain the program FSNA will develop best practices that can be replicated across the state. The total Federal award to Florida is \$11,459,410.00 and will benefit 26 rural counties.

2. FSNA is closely monitoring.

SB 300 Sen. Lori Berman / HB 477 Rep. Allison Tant - Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch Program: Requires FDACS to establish & operate a universal free school breakfast & lunch program for public school students.

3. Current situation in Florida related to free meals.

- **33 Counties in Florida are 100% Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)***
- **34 Counties in Florida are not 100% CEP – see reverse side**

**Community Eligibility Provision, Federal Register 7 CFR Part 245.9(f), The Community Eligibility Provision is an option for eligible schools to offer meals at no cost to all enrolled students without collection of household income applications.*

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