

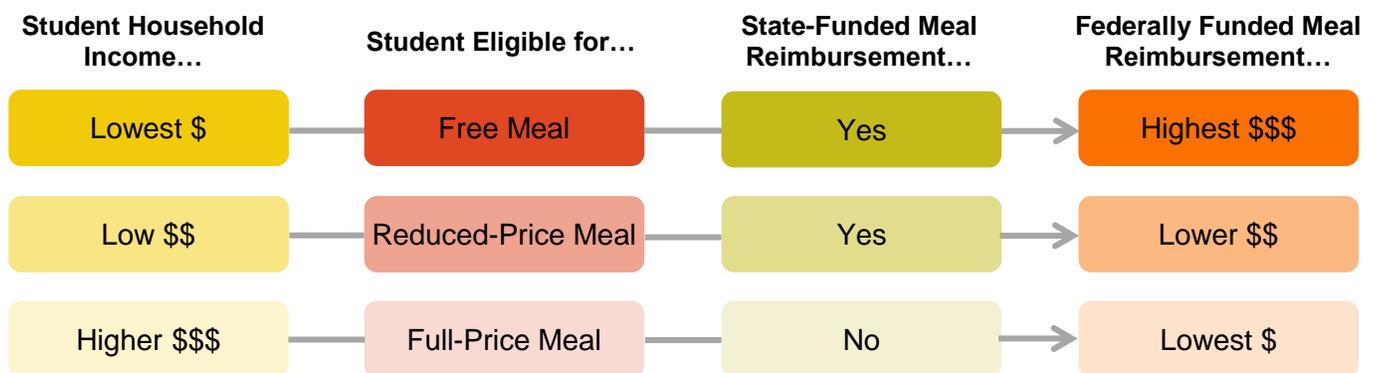
The School Breakfast Program

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School Breakfast Basics

- All public schools can operate the federal School Breakfast Program.
- Low-income students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.
- Participating schools receive a federally funded reimbursement for each meal served. Schools receive the highest reimbursement for meals served to the lowest-income students.
- California schools receive a small state-funded reimbursement for meals served to lower-income students. The federal reimbursement is several times larger than the state -- both are vital to the school meal programs.



School Breakfast: Student Health & Academic Achievement

Successful school breakfast programs are a cost-effective strategy to help all students learn, grow, and achieve. These programs can bolster academic achievement, decrease absenteeism, reduce tardiness, improve classroom behavior, mitigate hunger, and help students establish life-long healthy eating habits.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to a nutritious breakfast at home. Even as the economy continues to recover, families across our state are struggling to meet their most basic needs – and children are missing out on the nutrition necessary to lead healthy, productive lives.

School Breakfast in California

- ➔ Nearly 95% of California's low-income students attend schools that operate the School Breakfast Program. Unfortunately, the program only reaches 35% of our low-income students.
- ➔ On an average day, over 2 million California students who are eligible for free or reduced-price schools meals miss out on the health and academic benefits of school breakfast.
- ➔ Some California school districts have substantially increased breakfast participation by changing when and where meals are served (for example, in the classroom and/or after the first bell).

CFPA is a policy advocacy organization dedicated to increasing low-income Californians' access to healthy food at home, at school, and throughout entire communities. Our advocacy agenda draws on the anti-hunger, nutrition, and health movements. Working as a policy leader and ally, we continue to build on more than 20 years of success.