

Facts and Figures 2001-2002

School and Community Nutrition • Annette Bomar Hopgood, Director
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School Nutrition Program (SNP)

The School Nutrition Program in Georgia consists of the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs; additionally, the After-School Snack Program and the Seamless Summer Nutrition Program operate within the lunch program. The purpose of these individual programs is to collectively provide meals that meet the school-day nutritional needs and that support the development of food habits for lifelong wellness of all students, regardless of income level.

All 1,861 public schools and over 100 charter, public residential, private, and Department of Defense schools participated in the National School Lunch Program in School Year 2002, giving all students enrolled in those schools an opportunity to receive a nutritious lunch. Georgia schools served lunch to over 74% of students in attendance.

Currently, 1,753 or 94% of public schools offer the breakfast program and 29% of students in those schools eat breakfast. More than 85% of school districts offered breakfast in all of their schools. Two hundred twenty-six schools demonstrated their belief in the contribution of the program to the learning process by opting to absorb the cost of providing breakfast at no charge to their students in School Year 2002.

Non-needy Students

Non-needy students whose parents are generally at the lower end of the earning scale due to age and lack of work experience purchased 46% of lunches served in Georgia. The state of Georgia provides additional funding to schools to keep student sale prices low as a service to these parents. Sale prices are set by the school and range from \$.50 to \$2.75 for lunches and between \$.30 and \$1.75 for breakfasts.

Healthy Meals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Healthy School Meals Initiative (SMI) has supported Georgia schools' longstanding efforts at providing healthier student meals. Schools are in various stages of computer analysis of the nutrient content of meals and subsequently modifying meals/food products according to needs indicated by the nutrient analysis. Most districts supervised by a professional director use centralized menus to control costs and expedite nutrient analysis. They are also moving to standardization of recipes and preparation and service procedures in order to produce menu items of consistent nutrient content and quality. Of the schools reviewed in the state during the last five years 37% have been certified as meeting nutrient standards and dietary guidelines. The remaining 63% are at various stages of standardization and analysis in the implementation process, on their way to full certification.

Financial Management

The GDOE's web-based Online Reporting System (ORS) of financial management is used by school districts to electronically transmit school-level claims for reimbursement, along with revenue and expenditure data. From revenue and expenditure data supplied by school districts, the ORS generates various management data, such as profit and loss, cash resource management, and participation and cost reports. School district administrators use this data to achieve the high level of program performance found in the state. Additionally, school districts can access an interactive database from which they can get comparative data from other schools in the state.

Program Management

A certified, in-field, professional director manages school nutrition operations in three-fourths of the state's school districts, which comprise over 90% of the schools in the state. Other smaller school districts have a manager/supervisor to perform required system-level functions. Each school program is operated by a classified manager who is involved in a program of continuous training, including the state-developed Training-in-Depth.

Emphasis on skilled, competent school staff is demonstrated by a state rule that requires each district to operate a job-related training program, including in-service for program personnel. Each new employee must complete an orientation course, which provides instruction in specific areas related to a safe, quality, customer-oriented program.

Expanded Service

USDA expanded waiver of the Summer Food Service Program regulations to allow schools to participate and claim reimbursement under the National School Lunch Program beginning in the summer of 2002. The purpose of this effort is to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer when they do not have access to school meals. Students were served meals or snacks at 178 sites in 20 school districts.

Lunch Data

Average number lunches served daily	1,018,699
Participation rate	74%
Average daily attendance	1,460,033
Lunches served	186,085,796
Student lunch price range (greater than 185% poverty)	
	\$.50 - \$2.75
Reduced-price sale price	\$.20 - \$.40
Lunches served free	45%
Lunches served reduced-price	9%
Lunches paid	46%

Breakfast Data

Average daily number served	359,615
Participation rate	29%
Schools on breakfast program	1,753
Breakfasts served	66,312,174
Student breakfast price range	\$.30-\$1.75
Breakfasts served especially needy	62%
Breakfasts served free	70%
Breakfasts served reduced-price	9%
Breakfasts served paid	21%

Snack Data

Schools on program	695
Snacks served - regular	348,115
Snacks served - at-risk	3,614,915
Total Reimbursement	\$2,211,342

Summer Meals Data

Service sites	178
Lunches Served (Included in lunch data)	214,877
Breakfasts Served (included in breakfast data)	110,872
Snacks Served	17,048

Cost of School Meals

	Breakfast Costs	Lunch Costs
Food	\$.559	\$.813
Labor	.622	.733
Other	.107	.159
Equipment	.043	.063
Sch. Brd. Expd.	.009	.015
Overhead	.114	.164
Total	\$1.45	\$1.95

Revenue (Cash and Commodity Food)

Value – Commodity Foods (5.3%)	\$29,510,488
State funds received (6.2%)	34,829,791
Federal reimbursement received (51.3%)	286,369,053
Cash from students/adults purchasing lunch, breakfast, milk & other sales (32.6%)	182,057,994
Other cash (2.3%)	12,599,250
Transfers In (2.3%)	12,695,756
Total	\$558,062,330

Expenditures (Cash and Commodity Food)

Value – Commodity Foods (5.4%)	\$29,639,037
Purchased Food (37.5%)	207,070,750
Labor (43.7%)	240,917,367
Other (9.4%)	51,827,634
Equipment (1.6%)	9,082,064
Transfers Out (2.4%)	13,058,611
Total	\$551,595,463

School Lunch Reimbursement Rates

	Free/Reduced-price Less than 60%	Free/Reduced-price Greater than 60%
Paid	\$.20	\$.22
Reduced	\$1.69	\$1.71
Free	\$2.09	\$2.11

USDA Commodity Foods Earned

.1550/lunch commodity assistance rate	
Total	\$32,126,195

School Breakfast Reimbursement Rates

	Non-Severe Need	Severe Need
Paid	\$.21	\$.21
Reduced	\$.85	\$1.07
Free	\$1.15	\$1.37

After School Snacks Reimbursement Rates

	Regular	At-Risk
Paid	\$.05	\$.57
Reduced	\$.28	\$.57
Free	\$.57	\$.57

Eligibility Standards - SY 2001-2002

	Free	Reduced price
Family of 4	\$22,945/yr.	\$32,653/yr.

For more information contact:

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