



## School Nutrition Program Funding & Statistics

Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) Department of School Nutrition is a self-funded operation supported primarily through federal and state reimbursements and, to a much lesser extent, cafeteria sales and grants. The program operates under strict adherence to federal and state regulations and laws governing the use of public monies as well as the reimbursement afforded by the federal programs.

The department operates as a non-profit enterprise and utilizes donated foods provided by USDA, foods purchased from commercial vendors and produce grown on-site in hydroponic gardens.

Menus are planned in accordance with federal and state nutrition standards, ensuring that students are provided nutritionally balanced, high-quality meals. The Norfolk School Nutrition Program is a leader in its field and was among the first in the state to be certified compliant with enhanced nutrition requirements set forth in the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. School Nutrition provides meals that meet or exceed the nutritional requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The department provides more than 6 million reimbursable meals and snacks per year. Operating as a central food hub, the department provides no cost nutritious meals within and outside of instructional days, including during winter, spring, and summer academic breaks and during emergency shelter operations. In addition to school meals, School Nutrition operates a food pantry, distributing donated groceries to NPS households in need of extra support. With assistance from the Office of Student Information, School Nutrition provides eligibility data, required to operationalize Summer EBT.

Breakfast and lunch are provided to all Norfolk Public Schools students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. Eligibility is based on direct certification. Household meal applications and meal debt have been eliminated. The department typically serves over 31,000 breakfast and lunch meals to students each school day.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is utilized to provide an extra fruit or vegetable snack during the school day for students in eligible elementary schools. Currently, twenty-one schools participate. Approximately 9,450 portions of fresh, raw fruits or vegetables are provided to students and classroom teachers, 2-3 times per week. Nutrition education materials are also provided.

After school snacks and supper are provided to children ages eighteen and under, in sites with after school programs that operate the At-Risk Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). As of January 2025, forty-seven schools participate on a consistent basis. Nearly 1,800 snacks and suppers are served each day the programs are offered.

School Nutrition is one of the largest sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in Virginia, hosting programs in schools, recreation centers, libraries, and other sites throughout the community. The aim of this program is to alleviate hunger during the months when fewer students are enrolled in school-based programs. More than 100,000 summer meals were served in 2024.

School Nutrition provides multi-tiered support to NPS and the community through advocacy and participation in literacy initiatives, ESL activities, School Health Advisory Committee, Equity Taskforce, Emergency Management Advisory Council, and Norfolk Food Policy Council.

Meal Cost: All meals and snacks referenced above are provided free of charge to students.