

School Food by the Numbers

*Compiled by Ecotrust with assistance from the Child Nutrition Services Department of the Oregon Department of Education
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How many participants are in the national program? As of the school year 2008-2009, there are roughly 293 participants in the national school lunch and school breakfast programs (NSLBP) in the state of Oregon.

Who is eligible? All public and non-profit private schools (regardless of tuition) and all residential child care institutions are eligible to participate. In Oregon, the vast majority of participants are public school districts, however, participants also include a small number of juvenile correctional facilities, alternative schools, and treatment centers.

How many kids participate overall? Approximately 52.6% of students in Oregon participate in the national school lunch or breakfast program. The remainder likely eat off campus (high school only), bring their own lunch/breakfast or skip meals entirely.

How many students eat for free or at a reduced price? Approximately 46.1% of students in Oregon who eat school meals do so via the free or reduced meal program. This number is accurate as of October 2008 but is expected to grow in these difficult economic times.

LUNCH

How many lunches are served in the state of Oregon? Approximately 55,000,000 lunches were served in the 2007-2008 school year.

What's a typical lunch? The recommended meal pattern (for lunch) is: 2 ounces of meat or meat alternate; 8 ounces fluid milk; 1 serving of bread; $\frac{3}{4}$ cups servings of fruit or vegetable from at least 2 sources.

How do schools get reimbursed by the federal government for the lunches they serve? For the 2008-2009 school year, schools are reimbursed \$2.57 for every free meal they serve, \$2.17 for every reduced price meal they serve (with kids paying approximately \$.40), and \$.24 for every full pay meal they serve (with kids paying, on average, a low of \$1.69 and a high of \$2.90 depending on the district).

Of the amount received from the federal government and from students, how much is typically spent on food costs? For lunch, schools typically spend between \$1.09 and \$1.16 per meal on food costs.

How does that money break out? With regard to lunch, schools spend approximately 22% of their food dollars on milk, 28% on fruits and vegetables, 10% on grains, and 40% on protein.

And how do commodities play into the meal? Schools participating in the NSLP also receive agricultural commodities (unprocessed or partially processed foods such as canned peaches, low-fat mozzarella cheese, or turkey breast) as a supplement to the per meal cash reimbursements, in amounts based on the number of lunches they serve. A commodity value, equal to \$.2075 per lunch served, is assigned.

BREAKFAST

How many breakfast meals are served in the state of Oregon? Approximately 22,000,000 breakfasts were served in Oregon in the 2007-2008 school year.

What's a typical breakfast? The recommended meal pattern (for breakfast) is: 2 servings of bread or 2 oz of meat or meat alternate or 1 serving of bread and 1 oz of meat or meat alternate; ½ cup of fruit, vegetable or full-strength juice; 8 oz of fluid milk.

How do schools get reimbursed by the federal government for the breakfast meals they serve? For the 2008-2009 school year, schools are reimbursed \$1.40 per free breakfast served, \$1.10 per reduced priced breakfast (with kids paying approximately \$.30) and \$0.25 per paid breakfast (with kids paying, on average, a low of \$.70 and a high of \$1.75 depending on the district).

Of the amount received from the federal government and from students, how much is typically spent on food costs? For breakfast, schools typically spend between \$.70 and \$.85 per meal on food costs.

How does that money break out? With regard to breakfast, schools spend approximately 20% of their food dollars on milk, 20% on fruits and vegetables, 20% on grains, and 40% on protein.

Does the commodity surplus program support breakfast meals too? Schools may use the commodities earned at lunch in the program, but breakfast does not have its own commodity rate.

TOTAL PURCHASING POWER per school year represented by Oregon participants in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs:

55,000,000 lunches, spending approximately \$1.10 per meal on food costs = \$60,500,000.00
22,000,000 breakfasts, spending approximately \$.75 per meal on food costs = \$16,500,000.00

TOTAL PURCHASING POWER = \$77,000,000.00 per school year.

Questions?

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