

Special Milk Program

1. What is the Special Milk Program?

The Special Milk Program provides milk to children in schools, child care institutions and eligible camps that do not participate in other Federal child nutrition meal service programs. The program reimburses schools and institutions for the milk they serve. Schools in the NSLP and SBP may also participate in the Special Milk Program to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where children do not have access to the school meal programs. The Food and Nutrition Service administers the program at the Federal level. At the State level, the Special Milk Program is administered by Kentucky Department of Education, Division of School and Community Nutrition, which operate the program through agreements with school food authorities.

2. How does the Special Milk Program work?

Generally, public or non-profit private schools of high school grade or under and public or non-profit private residential child care institutions and eligible camps may participate in the Special Milk Program provided they do not participate in other Federal child nutrition meal service programs, except as noted above. Participating schools and institutions receive reimbursement from the USDA for each half pint of milk served. They must operate their milk programs on a non-profit basis. They agree to use the Federal reimbursement to reduce the selling price of milk to all children.

Any child at a participating school or half-day pre-kindergarten program can get milk through the Special Milk Program. Children may buy milk or receive it free, depending on the school's choice of program options.

3. What types of milk can be offered and what are the nutritional requirements for the milk program?

Schools or institutions must offer only pasteurized fluid types of fat free or low fat milk. These milks must meet all State and local standards. All milk should contain Vitamins A and D at levels specified by the Food and Drug Administration.

4. How much reimbursement do schools get?

The Federal reimbursement for each half-pint of milk sold to children can be found on the [USDA website](#). For students who receive their milk free, the USDA reimburses schools the net purchase of the milk.

For more information:

For information on the operation of the National School Lunch Program and all the Child Nutrition Programs, contact the Division of School and Community Nutrition at Kentucky Department of Education. You may contact us by mail at 300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort, KY 40601 or by telephone at (502) 564-5625. More information can be found on the Kentucky Department of Education [website](#).