

Meal Guidance for 2026 NM Summer Reading Program Sites and Locations

All NM Summer Reading Program sites are *encouraged* to provide meals to students who attend programming. The State of New Mexico offers programs that can support sites with meal provision. **Site partners are asked to initiate enrollment in either program option by March 2026.**

1. Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

The **Seamless Summer Option (SSO)** is available to Summer Reading program partner locations being hosted by Local Education Agencies that participate in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program as School Food Authorities (SFAs) during the school year.

Overview: The **Seamless Summer Option (SSO)** permits School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) to serve meals during summer and/or other school vacation periods using the same meal service rules and claiming procedures they use during the regular school year.

- **Application Process**
 - **Contact your school's Food Service Director to express interest in Seamless Summer Meals no later than March 2026.** The school's Food Service Director must initiate the school's enrollment in SSO and complete the application process by April 2026.
 - **Program Operation:** Meals can only be provided during the summer months when school is not in session.
 - **Meal Delivery:** If needed, meals can be transported to other eligible locations or, if close enough, students can walk to the meal site.
 - **Contact for Questions:** Terence Mirabal (PED) at terence.mirabal@ped.nm.gov
-

2. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** program, administered by the State on behalf of USDA, is available to Summer Reading Program partners who will host sites at non-school locations (i.e., camps, parks, playspaces, housing developments, community centers, churches, or other public sites where children gather in the summer) in communities of need*, or are school sites in communities of need* that were not School Food Authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program during the regular school year.

- **Overview:** Under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Summer Reading Program partners have options:
 - a) Apply to be a Summer Food Service Program Sponsor Site within your community (kitchen facilities required) **-OR-**
 - b) Be matched with an approved Summer Food Service Program Site (SFPS) near your Summer Reading Program location (dine-in or pick-up options may vary by location).

 - **Application Process:**
 - For details about eligibility and application requirements, contact Debra Candelaria (ECECD) at debra.candelaria@ececd.nm.gov **by March 2026.**
 - **Contact for Questions:** Debra Candelaria (ECECD) at debra.candelaria@ececd.nm.gov
-

Additional Key Information:

- **Meal Distribution Timing:** Meals for the above programs may be provided when the school is not in session (e.g., during summer break).

- **Hiring Summer Staff:** Funding is available through both program offerings to support meal distribution staffing needs.