

MONTANA

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

2020

Fueling Success in the School Day

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
opi.mt.gov Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent



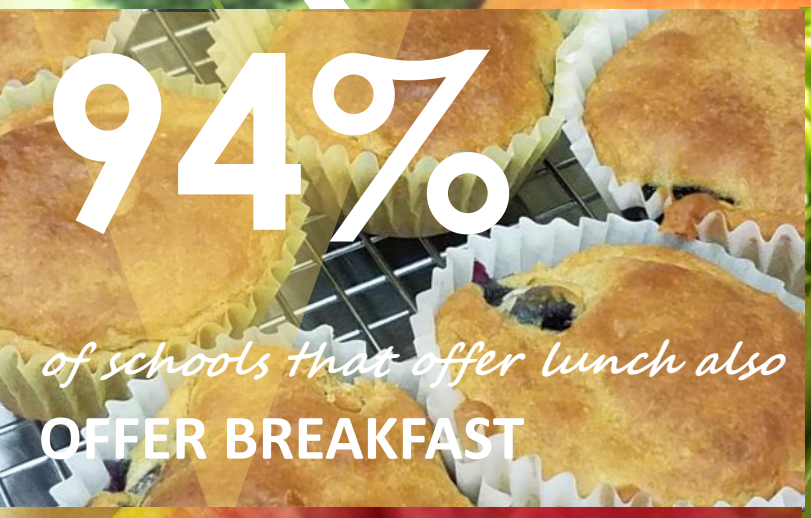
41.74%

OF MONTANA STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

MT SCHOOLS SERVED

25.4 MILLION

MEALS IN 2020



94%

of schools that offer lunch also

OFFER BREAKFAST



68.5 MILLION

REIMBURSEMENT TO MONTANA SCHOOLS



150

SCHOOLS OFFER FREE MEALS TO ALL STUDENTS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) School Nutrition Programs administers eight U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Afterschool Snack Program
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- USDA Food Distribution Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Montana Team Nutrition Program, including Farm to School

School Nutrition Programs reimburses schools, distributes USDA Foods for meals served to children, teaches workshops for school personnel, ensures that schools implement federal regulations, and provides nutrition education for students.

Sponsors include: public and private schools; government agencies; and nonprofit residential child care institutions, organizations, and camps.

VISION

To help every student succeed through equal access to nutritious and sustainable sources of food.

MISSION

To ensure that schools serve healthy meals, promote active lifestyles, and provide nutrition education through the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROGRAM SPECIALIST — BOZEMAN	ERIN TURNER, DTR, SNS
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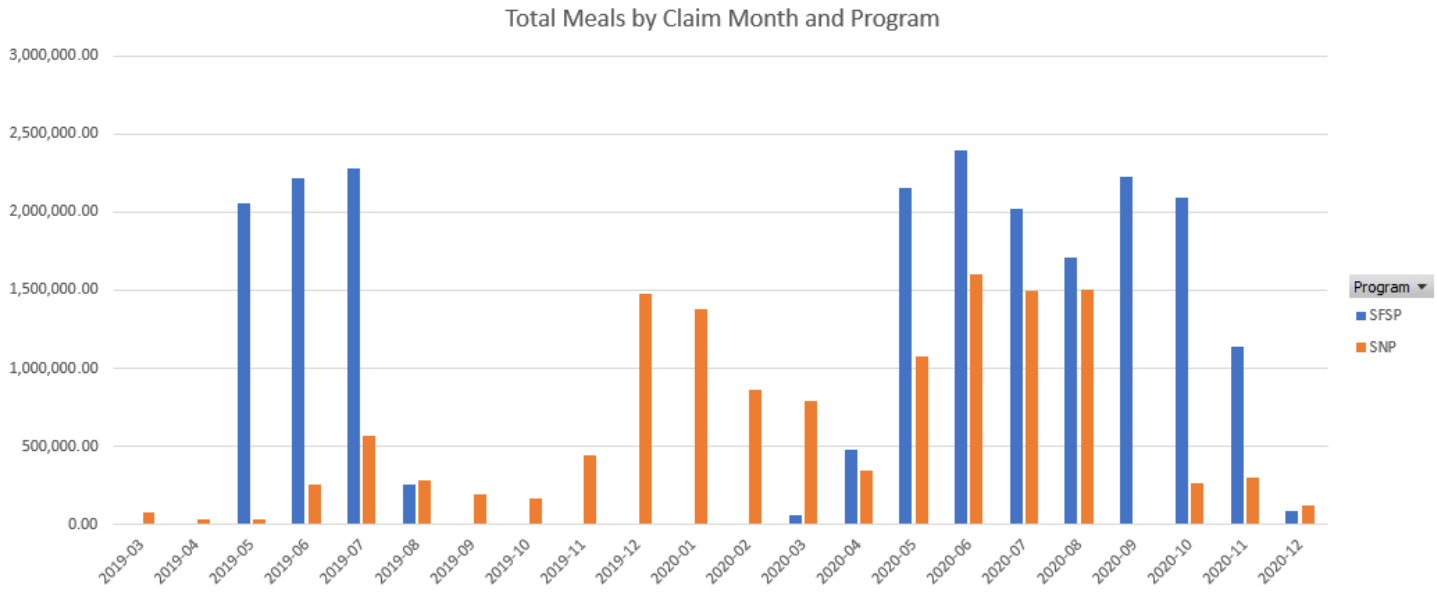
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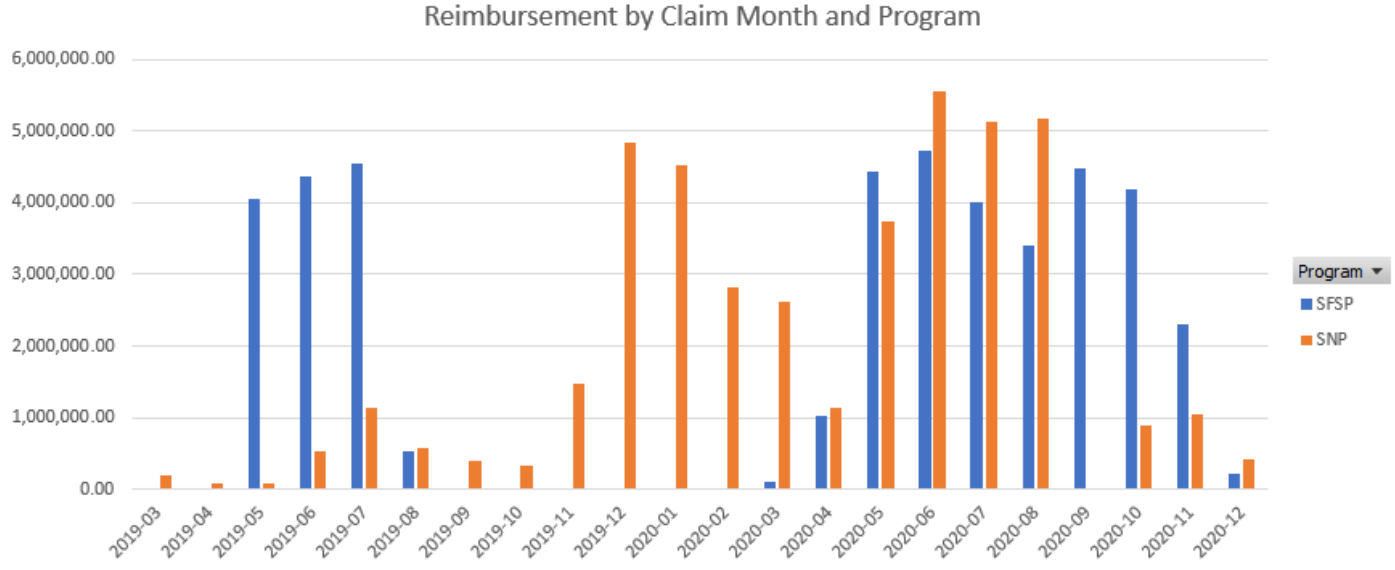
COVID-19 Response



- The USDA allowed meal program flexibility through federal and state waivers to ensure children had access to meals when schools were closed or offering remote learning throughout the pandemic.
- Key waivers included flexibilities for meal times, non-congregate feeding, parent/guardian pick-up, program monitoring and emergency feeding through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
- Beginning in March 2020, eligible schools were given the option to feed all children 18 and under free of charge.
- To help fill in the food access gaps, OPI SNP also assisted DPHHS in coordinating the USDA Pandemic EBT rollout in MT.







—healthy communities—

FARM TO SCHOOL

57.1% of Montana school districts participate in Farm to School activities.

EQUIPMENT GRANTS

20 capital equipment grants were awarded to local schools by the OPI for a total of $67,600.

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICIES

All school districts are required to have a School Wellness Policy that includes input from school staff, administration, school board officials, parents, food service staff, and students.

SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOLS

Smart Snacks in Schools regulations ensure that foods sold during the school day meet healthy guidelines.

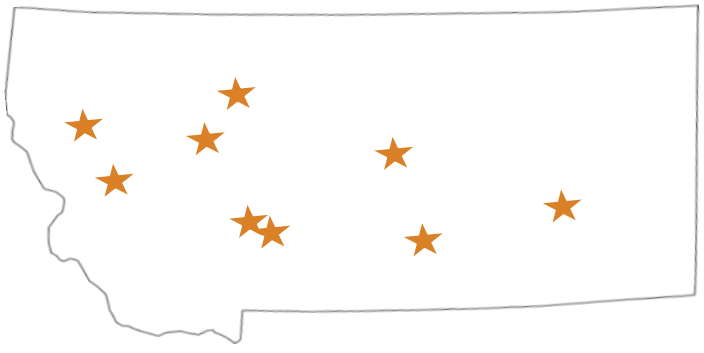
—Training—

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

78 hours of continuing education provided by MT Team Nutrition Program

58 hours of continuing education provided by OPI School Nutrition Programs

REGIONAL OPI AND TEAM NUTRITION STAFF



PROGRAMS

	DISTRICTS/ SPONSORS	SITES
School Breakfast Program	233	756
National School Lunch Program	254	807
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	116	176
Afterschool Snack Program	94	234
Special Milk Program	10	13
USDA Foods	253	—
Summer Food Service Program	92	267
MT Team Nutrition	ALL	ALL



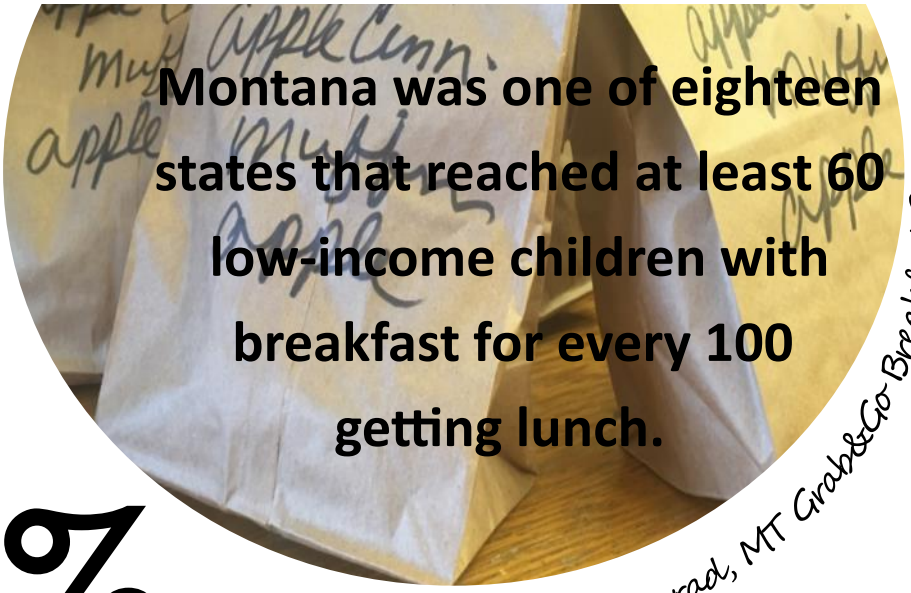






SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The School Breakfast Program provides reimbursement for breakfasts served to students during the school day.

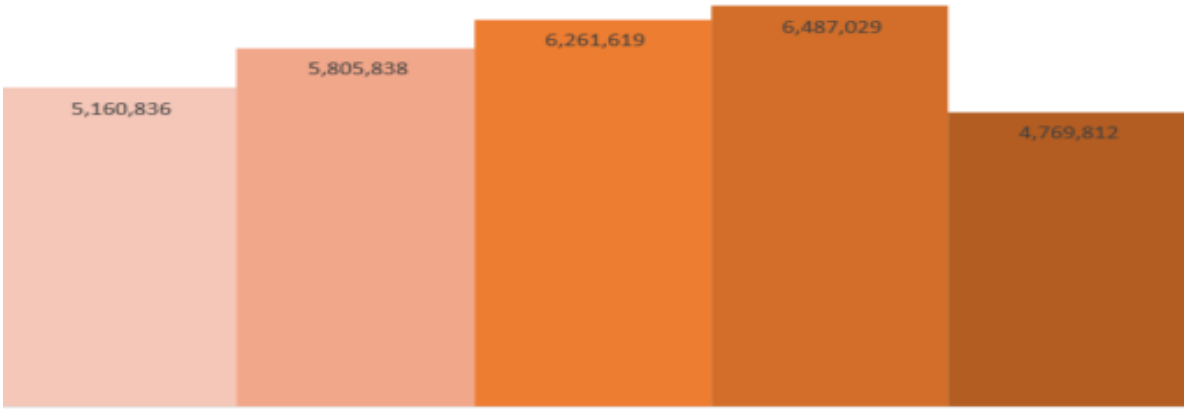


Conrad, MT Grab&Go Breakfast Bags

94%

of schools that offer lunch also

OFFER BREAK-



26,499

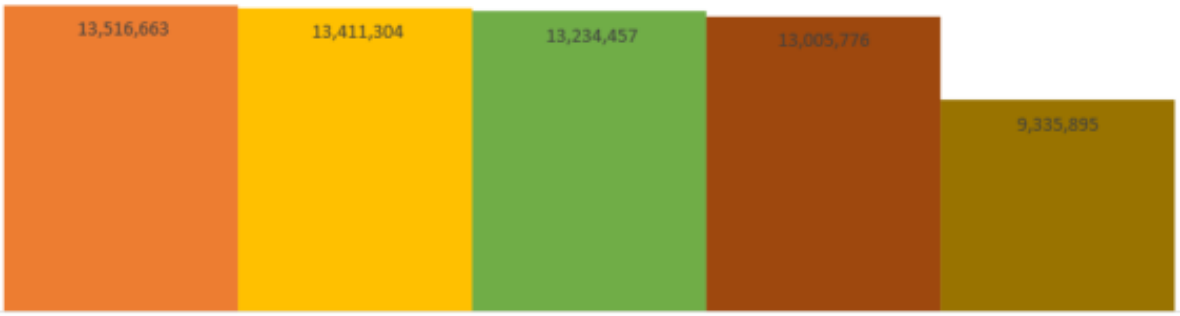
STUDENTS EAT BREAKFAST AT SCHOOL **EACH DAY**

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The National School Lunch Program provides reimbursement for lunches served to students during the school day.



41.7% *of MT students qualify for* **FREE/REDUCED** *meals*



51,866

STUDENTS EAT LUNCH AT SCHOOL **EACH DAY**

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides funds to elementary schools for fresh fruit and vegetable snacks during the school day.



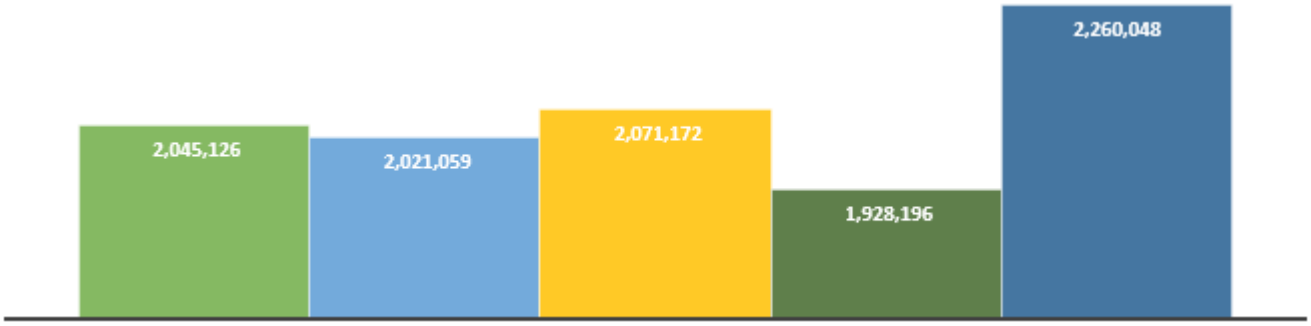
Carrot Prep @ 2018 MT Cook Fresh Institute

$51.629

ALLOTMENT PER STUDENT

186

Schools Participate in FFVP



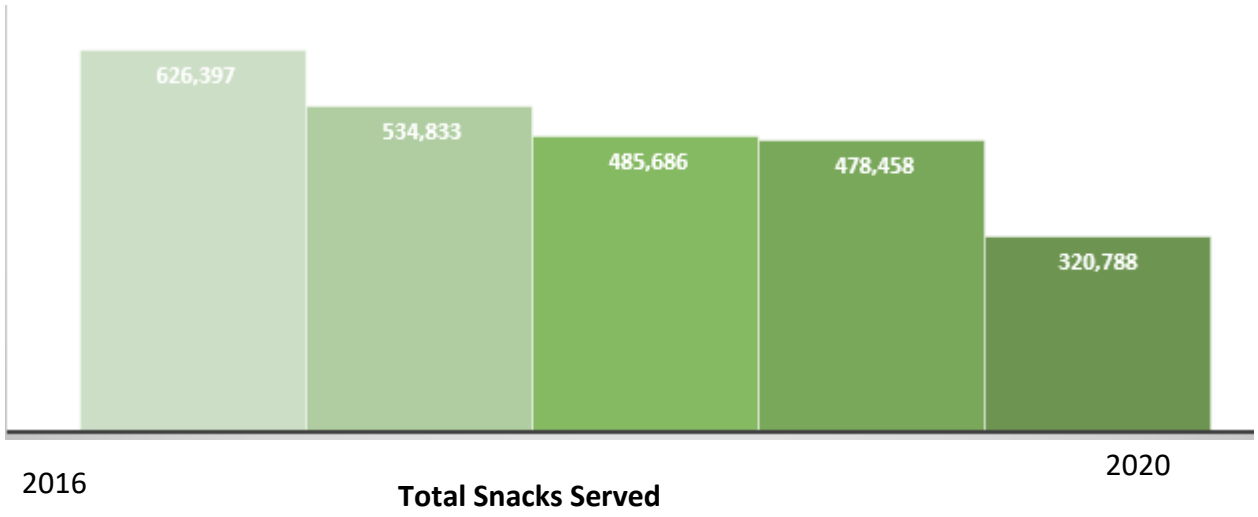
43,775

STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO FFVP

AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM

The Afterschool Snack Program provides snacks to students in education and enrichment activities after school.





1,782

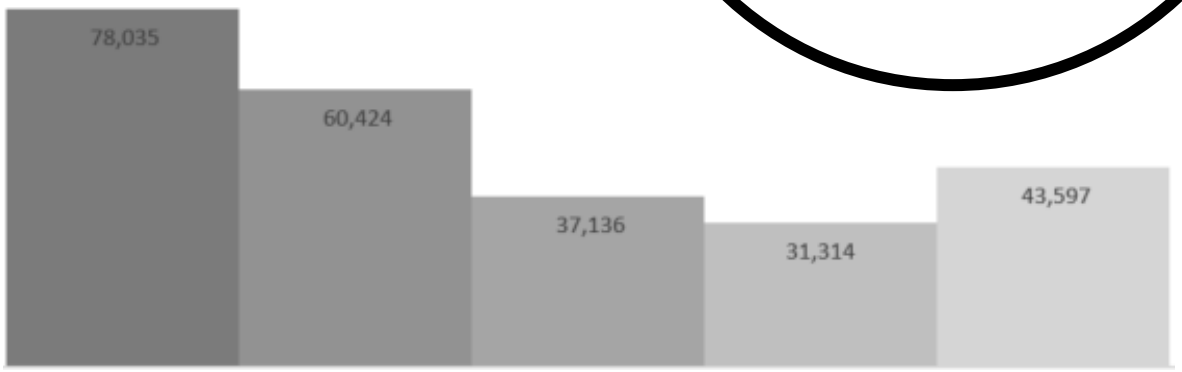
STUDENTS EAT A SNACK AFTER SCHOOL **EACH DAY**

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

The Special Milk Program provides reimbursement for milk served at schools that do not offer the National School Lunch Program or Summer Food Service Program.



The Special Milk Program operates at 12 small schools/summer camps that do NOT offer breakfast or lunch to students.



242

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM **EACH DAY**

USDA FOODS and DOD FRESH

The USDA provides schools with USDA Foods and Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for use in preparing school meals.



Veggie Cups @ Great Falls Public Schools

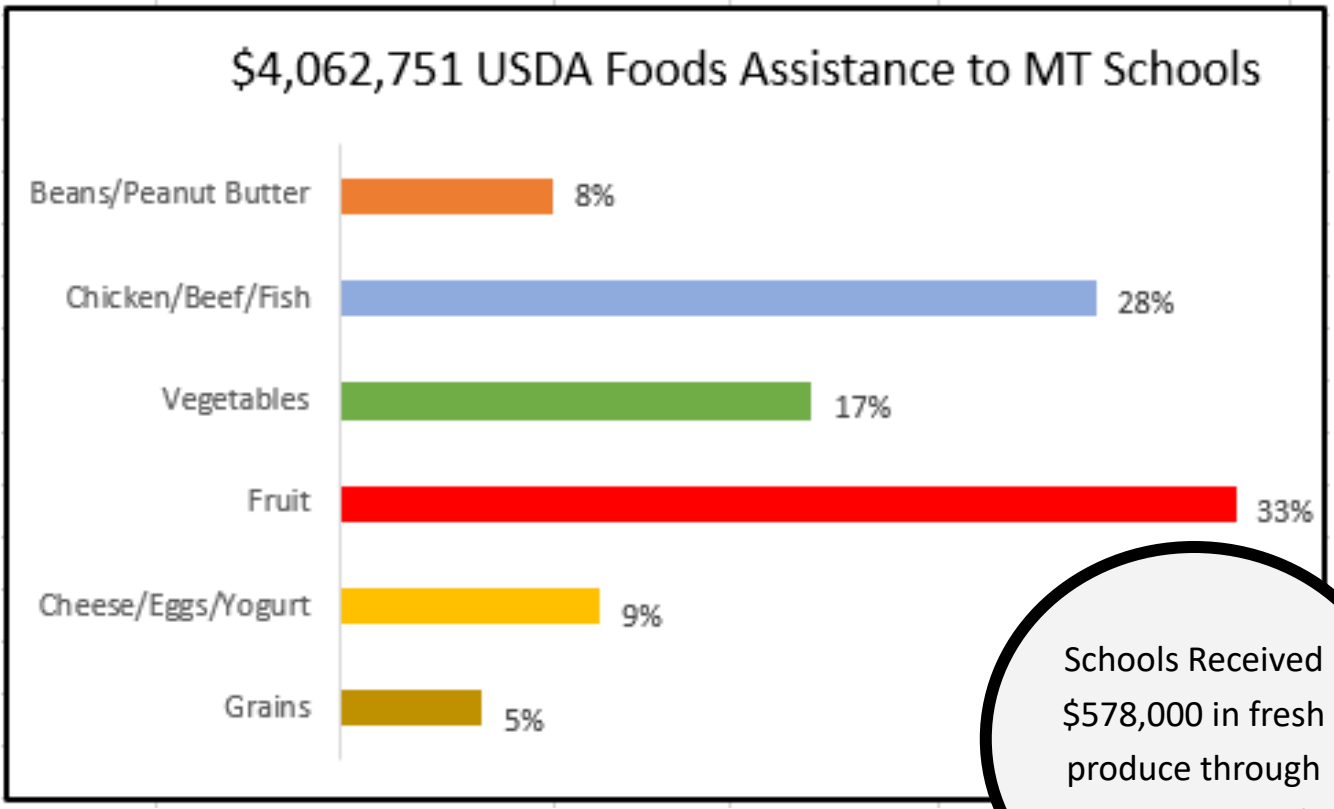
Did You Know….

On an average day, USDA Foods make up between 15 and 20 percent of the total products served as part of a school lunch.

100%

of foods offered through USDA Foods/DOD Fresh are

AMERICAN GROWN



Schools Received $578,000 in fresh produce through USDA DoD Fresh.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to all kids, age 18 and under, during the summer months. Since March 2020, the SFSP also provided free school meals to children during the public health emergency.



Tacos @ MT Cook Fresh Institute

100%

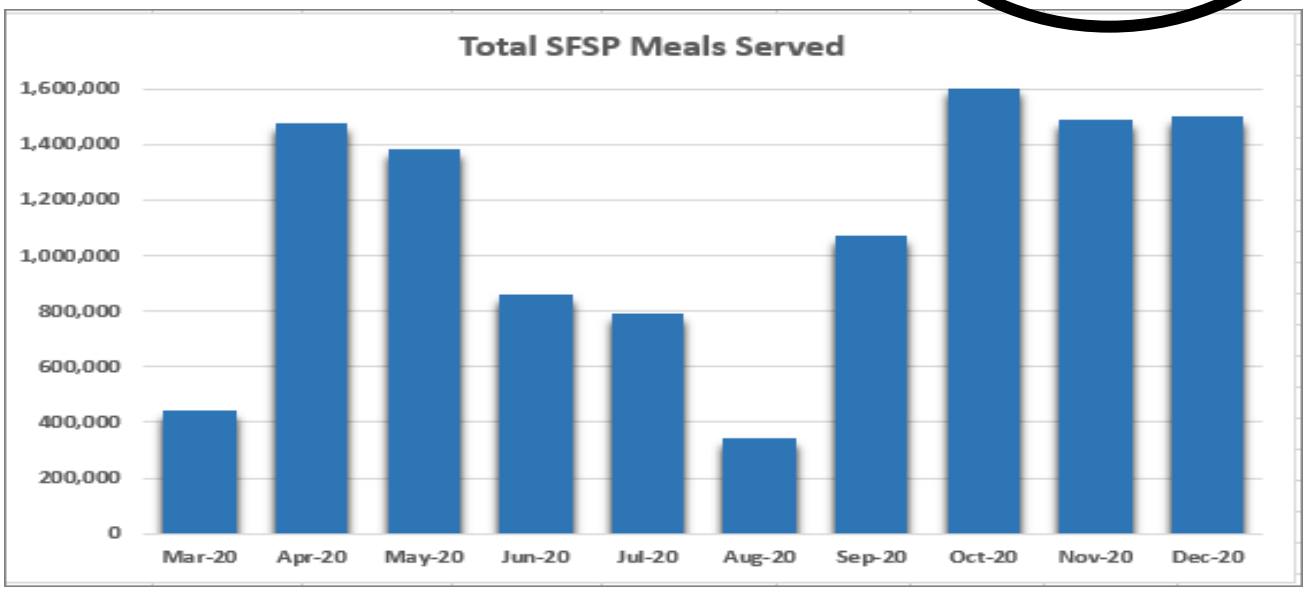
of MT counties

have at least one

SFSP SITE

Reimbursement Rates
Summer 2020

	Self-Prep	Vended
Break-fast	$2.3750	$2.330
Lunch/ Supper	$4.1525	$4.0875
Snack	$0.9775	$0.9550



211 Sponsors at 528 Sites

Including schools, home deliveries via bus routes, weekend and holiday meals, and drive-thru pick-up.

MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION

The Montana Team Nutrition Program provides professional development training opportunities and technical assistance on student wellness.

Montana Team Nutrition Provided:

- **One** week-long Montana Cook Fresh Summer Institute (31 hours) for 19 directors co-hosted with Montana No Kid Hungry, **two** district level Montana Cook Fresh Workshops, **one** Veggie-licious webinar, and kicked off the Montana Cook Fresh: Quality School Meals Students Enjoy Initiative.

- **Three** Smarter Lunchroom workshops designed to teach participants the benefits of using behavioral economics which are low and no cost techniques for the school cafeteria to help nudge students to make healthier choices.

- **Two webinars and nine** weekly School Nutrition Program Chats during COVID-19 to school nutrition program staff. These webinars and open discussions covered hot topics related to COVID-19 including hygiene, social distancing, use of masks, emergency planning for grab and go meals, classroom and remote meal service and started. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and receive solutions and ideas to challenges faced with state agency staff and their peers. Due to the popularity and positive feedback for this events, monthly CHATs are scheduled the first Thursday of the month from 3-4 pm for the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Two** statewide nutrition education utilizing the USDA's Discover My Plate and Team Nutrition Cooks curriculums, for educators in motivating students to develop healthy eating habits.

- **Two** district or state level presentations on use of technology, grant writing, and USDA professional standards to promote professional development for foodservice staff, especially directors. Developed a Food Service Director Professional Development Handbook and Food Service Director Job Description Templates for use by districts to ensure well-trained leaders in school nutrition programs.

- **Three** district or state level presentations on the USDA's school wellness policy and best practices (including adequate time to eat and recess before lunch) for creating a healthy school nutrition environment. Developed and distributed **two** Montana School Wellness in Action Newsletters. 39% of Montana elementary schools implemented a recess before lunch schedule during the 2019-2020 school year.

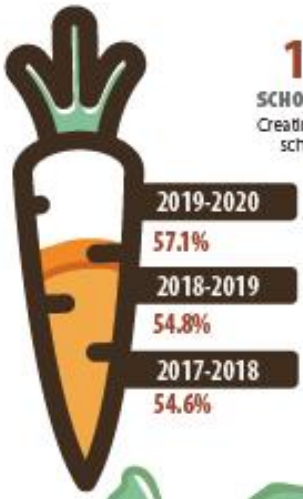


- **Twenty-three** school districts with a customized school wellness policy assessment and technical assistance or resources for meeting the USDA local school wellness policy. Experienced food service peer educators are also available through the Montana School Food Service Peer Education Network in collaboration with Montana No Kid Hungry.

- **Farm to school** training and technical assistance as explained in the Montana Farm to School report. With growing interest in this topic, two farm to school coaches were added to the staff.

Montana Farm to School Annual Report
Academic Year 2019-2020

Farm to School Participation Rates



2019-2020
57.1%

2018-2019
54.8%

2017-2018
54.6%

17%
SCHOOL GARDENS
Creating and tending school gardens



47%
PROCUREMENT
Serving local products in school meals

22%
EDUCATION
Conducting educational activities

WHAT

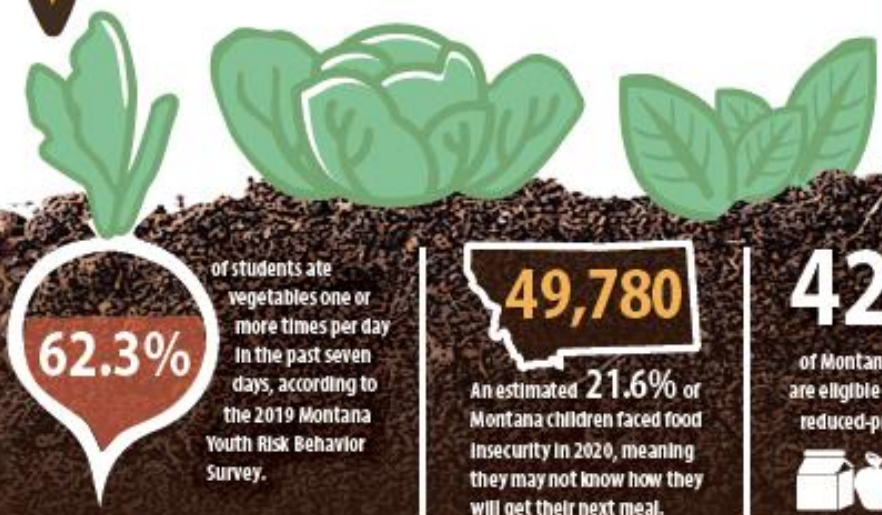
What is farm to school?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at K-12 schools and afterschool programs, preschools, and daycares. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities through such avenues as school gardening, cooking lessons, and farm field trips. Through community-driven approaches, farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following core elements: procurement, education, and school gardens.

WHY

Why does it matter?

Farm to school not only connects kids with locally grown food and food and nutrition education, it also helps foster more resilient food systems. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for farm to school as a way to solve food supply issues. Promoting locally grown and raised foods is one way to promote availability of fresh, healthy foods.



62.3% of students ate vegetables one or more times per day in the past seven days, according to the 2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

49,780
An estimated 21.6% of Montana children faced food insecurity in 2020, meaning they may not know how they will get their next meal.

42% of Montana students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.



The beginning of COVID-19 meant unprecedented shifts in education and school meal service. From grab-and-go meals and classroom meal service to innovative scratch cooking, farm to school efforts continued across the state. During the months of school closures, educators and school nutrition professionals found ways to implement farm to school including Harvest of the Month education.

Montana Farm to School Leadership Team

The Montana Farm to School Leadership Team works through partnerships across the state to build farm to school initiatives that help kids eat healthy, connect with agriculture and nutrition through education, support Montana farmers and food producers, foster economic vitality, and strengthen communities.

The Leadership Team consists of 17 member organizations with statewide focus and influence that are key to the success of farm to school in Montana. The Leadership Team has 5 working groups: distribution, funding, farm to early childhood education, communication, education, and beef to school. The working groups are open to the public.

The team is partially supported by funds from the United States of Agriculture (USDA) and in collaboration with the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

2019 Member Organizations

AERO
Lake County Community Development Corporation
Montana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Montana Department of Agriculture
Montana Department of Livestock
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Montana Farmers Union
Montana FoodCorps
Montana No Kid Hungry
Montana Office of Public Instruction
Montana School Nutrition Association
Montana Team Nutrition Program, Montana State University
Montana State University Extension
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Farm to School Network
Northern Plains Resource Council
USDA Office of Community Food Systems, Mountain Plains Region

Montana Harvest of the Month

Each month, participating sites focus on promoting one locally grown item (e.g., lentils) by serving it in at least one meal or snack, offering taste tests, conducting educational activities, and displaying or distributing Harvest of the Month materials.



Montana Harvest of the Month

In school year 2019-2020

76
early care and education sites

123
schools and afterschool programs

25,062
children reached at K-12 and ECE sites

144+
local food producers

$432,200
local foods purchased (not including fluid milk for K-12)

Montana Crunch Time

Farm to School Month

Montana Crunch Time is a statewide event to celebrate National Farm to School Month and 'buy local' initiatives in Montana by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples on a designated day in October.

31,224
people participated in Montana Crunch Time 2019

Training + Resources

16
Trainings in 2019-2020

There are many ways to learn about farm to school and access resources! We host farm to school webinars and in-person trainings as well as an archive of previous webinars on the Montana Farm to School website.

19.5
Hours

The Montana Farm to School Summit is a statewide biennial convening geared toward farm to school stakeholders such as school administrators, school nutrition professionals, parents, and food producers around Montana. In 2018, 198 people attended the summit in Missoula.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

@montanafarmtoschool
1,618 likes during the 2019-20 school year

@mtfarmtoschool
1,011 likes during the 2019-20 school year

MT Team Nutrition and Montana Harvest of the Month
961 views during the 2019-20 school year

GET INVOLVED + CONTACT

Website

Find resources and information at:
www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool

Contact Us

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(406) 994-5996

SOURCES

National School Lunch Program Annual Sponsor Agreement Form 2019-2020, Montana Office of Public Instruction

2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Montana Office of Public Instruction

Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2020, Feeding America

2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service

Montana Farm to School Leadership Team Participation 2019, Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Harvest of the Month Participation 2019-2020, Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Crunch Time Participation 2019, Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Farm to School Professional Development and Technical Assistance Tracker 2019-2020, Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Farm to School Summit Participation 2018, Montana Team Nutrition

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MONTANA FARM TO SCHOOL · TEAM Nutrition Montana · OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION · MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

—technology—

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND TRAINING (ART) GRANT

$1,549,279

School Nutrition Programs addresses the integrity of programs by upgrading, integrating, and enhancing the comprehensive Child Nutrition system.

Enhanced and increased utilization of the Child Nutrition system strengthens program integrity by including:

- Notifications and alerts of reporting deadlines for state and local staff
- Centralized records management for sponsor data
- A compliance calendar for improved activity tracking
- Menu planning and meal compliance software
- Ease in transfer of meal eligibility data from the Direct Certification Application system to the district point of service systems

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT (TIG)

$1,730,656

School Nutrition Programs support successful program operation at the state and local level by providing:

- Improved connectivity for state staff while conducting compliance reviews in the field
- A new Direct Certification Application to ensure that eligible students receive free school meals through a streamlined, more accurate process
- Enhanced menu planning for districts
- Improved procurement monitoring
- Streamlined reporting with use of ad hoc data searches

Revenues and Expenses

MONTANA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020

INCOME	
National School Lunch Program Meals	$20,848,917
Afterschool Snacks	$265,361
USDA Foods Entitlement	$4,062,751
Total National School Lunch Program (lunches, snacks and commodities)	**$25,177,030**
School Breakfast Program	**$8,032,815**
Special Milk Program	**$9,444**
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	**$2,260,048**
Summer Food Service Program	**$37,047,408**
Total Federal Funding	**$72,525,869**
Total State Matching Funds *(minimum required by USDA policy)*	**$660,509**
Total Federal and State Funding	**$73,186,378**



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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Want to learn more about

School Nutrition Programs

in Montana?

VISIT:

opi.mt.gov/schoolnutrition

