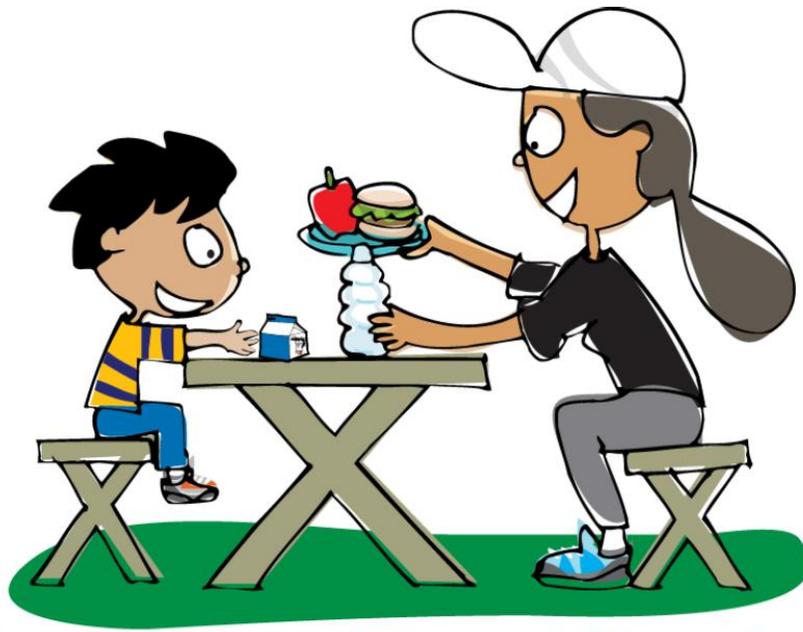


Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

# 2018 Summer Meals Report

Summer Food Service Program  
Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program  
Academic Summer Schools



## Summer Food Rocks!

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## 2018 Summer Meals Report

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# 2018 Summer Meals Report

## Overview

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded program administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The SFSP provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to children through 18 years of age in low-income areas. It helps children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.



The 2018 Summer Meals Report summarizes Connecticut's summer food activities during summer 2018. It incorporates results from the three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) that provide opportunities to serve meals to children over the summer months. Summer meals refers to meals served in the SFSP, Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and academic summer schools operated in schools participating in the NSLP.

- The SFSP is administered by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps, and private nonprofit organizations. Sponsors receive an operating and administrative cost reimbursement based on the number of meals served. The SFSP was first created by the USDA as part of a larger pilot program in 1968, and became its own separate program in 1975.
- The SSO is limited to school districts and offers streamlined administrative procedures through reduced paperwork. Participants operate under the NSLP regulations and are paid applicable school lunch reimbursement rates. The USDA began the SSO in 2002 to increase participation in summer meals.
- Academic summer schools include NSLP school sites that provide meals only to enrolled summer school students. The meals are eligible for reimbursement at free, reduced-price and paid rates under the NSLP or the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

In the summer of 2018, Connecticut had several communities work together to reduce the number of sponsors and associated administrative burden, while maintaining meal site access. This resulted in a return rate of experienced sponsors, ranging from 90 to 100 percent between the SFSP, SSO, and academic summer schools. For the third consecutive year at the national level, the Summer Meals Programs experienced a small dip in the number of meals served. In 2018, Connecticut aligned with the national trend, and served 5 percent fewer meals than in 2017. Although fewer meals were served, 37,039 children were provided meals daily, effectively bridging the summer food security gap for those participants.

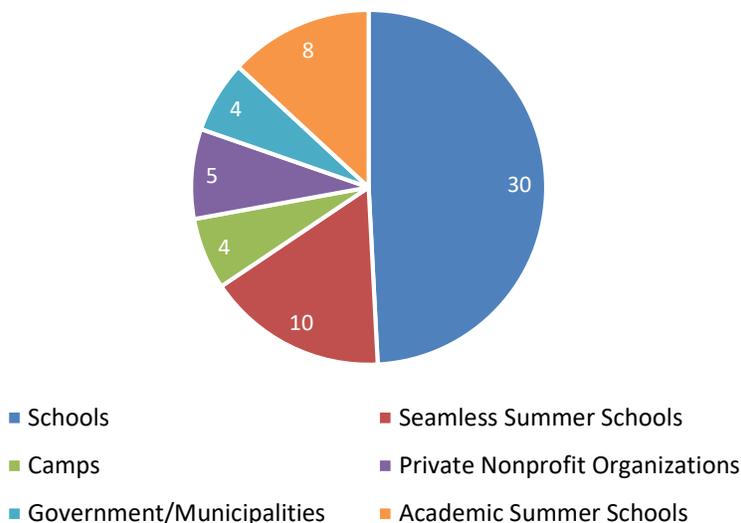


# 2018 Summer Meals Report

## Distribution of Sponsors

In 2018, Connecticut’s summer meal programs included a total of 61 sponsors, which consisted of 43 SFSP sponsors (71 percent), 10 SSO sponsors (16 percent), and 8 academic summer school sponsors (13 percent). Figure 1 indicates the number of each type of SFSP sponsor in 2018.

Figure 1. Distribution of Summer Meals sponsors in 2018

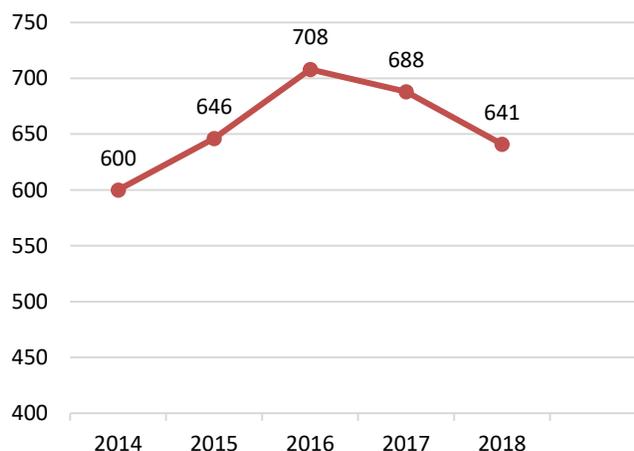


## Number of Sites

A summer meal site is a physical location where meals are served to children and where children consume meals in a supervised setting. In 2018, there were 641 summer meal sites among SFSP, SSO, and academic summer schools. The SFSP represented 544 sites, the SSO represented 88 sites, and academic summer schools represented 9 sites.

Although the total number of summer meal sites decreased by 7 percent from 2017 to 2018 (see figure 2), the number of summer meal sites has increased by almost 7 percent in the past five years.

Figure 2. Number of Summer Meals sites



# 2018 Summer Meals Report

## Total Summer Meals Served

The total number of summer meals served includes all program meals served by the SFSP, SSO, and academic summer schools. Figure 3 shows the meals served by each program. From 2017 to 2018, the percentage of meals served in each of the three programs remained stable. This was a change from several years prior, in which there was a significant shift of sponsors from the SSO to SFSP.

Figure 3. Total summer meals served by each program in 2017 and 2018

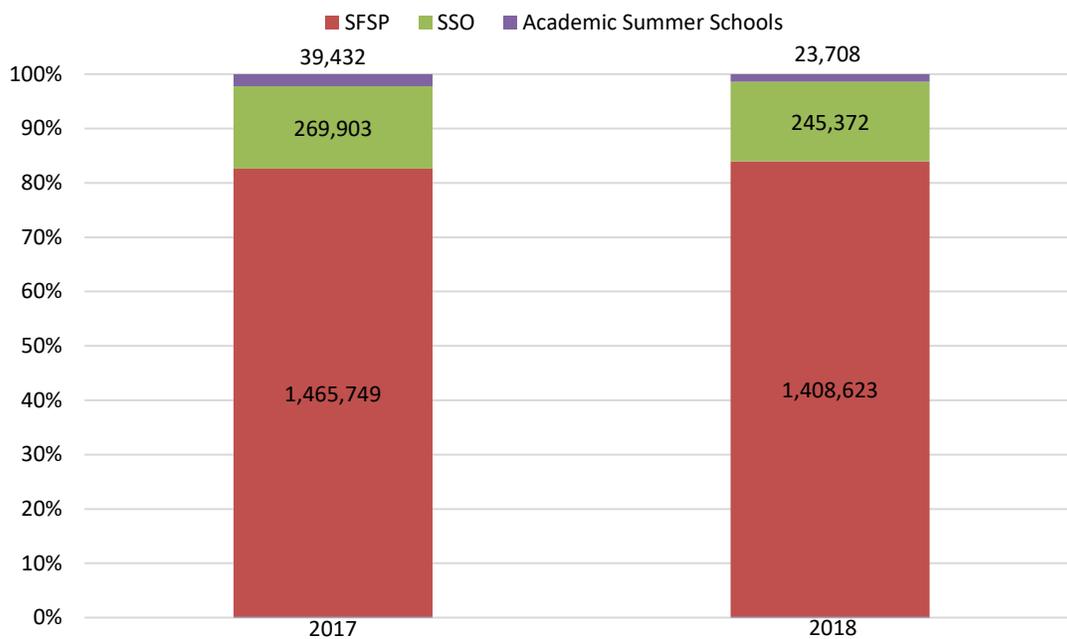
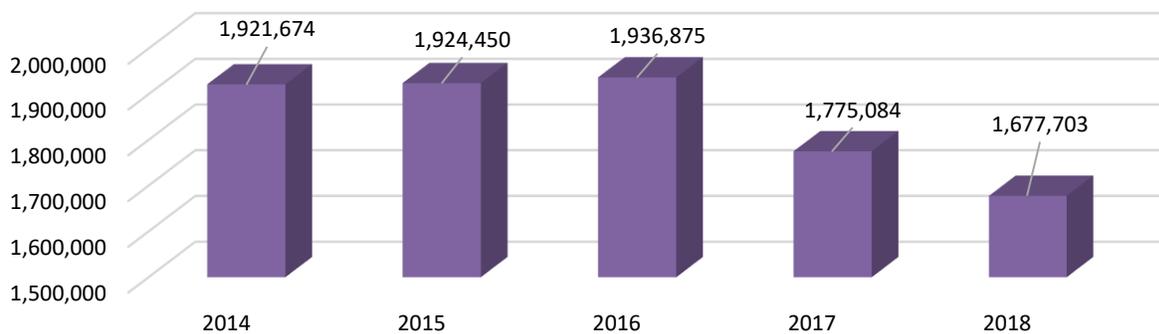


Figure 4 shows a five-year comparison of the total meals served from 2014 through 2018. Meal counts have dropped slightly in the past two years, similar to the national trend over the last several years.

Figure 4. Five-year trend in total Summer Meals served (2013-2017)

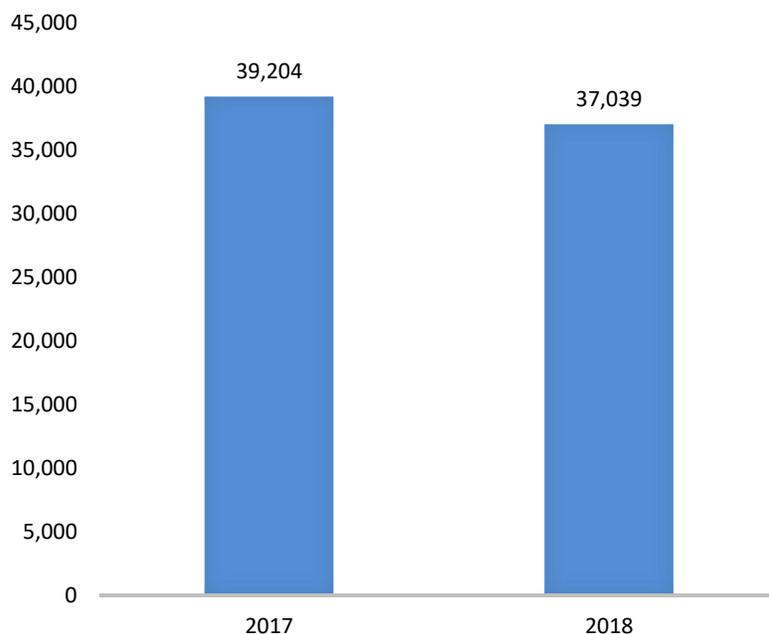


# 2018 Summer Meals Report

## Average Daily Participation

The average daily participation (ADP) represents the average number of children present and eating a meal at a summer meal site. The three programs combined had a five percent decrease in daily attendance from 2017 to 2018 (see figure 5). This corresponds with the five percent decrease in total meals served.

Figure 5. Average daily attendance for summer meals in 2017 and 2018



For more information on the SFSP, visit the CSDE's [SFSP](#) website or contact Caroline Cooke at [caroline.cooke@ct.gov](mailto:caroline.cooke@ct.gov) or 860-807-2144, Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/ReportSFSP.pdf>.