

National School Food Program Funding – School Year 2024/25

What is the purpose of National School Food Program funding?

- On April 1, 2024, the federal government announced an investment of \$1 billion over five years towards a National School Food Program (NSFP).
- The B.C. Government entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada through the National School Food Program (NSFP), providing approximately \$39 million over three years in additional school food program funding to complement Feeding Futures.

How much funding has been committed in the 2024/25 school year?

- For the 2024/25 school year, approximately \$7.2 million is being allocated to school districts.

How were the funding allocations determined?

- Year 1 funding allocations were developed using school-level socio-economic data for each district. All districts that have schools with socio-economic status indices below the provincial average will receive National School Food Program funding in 2024/25.
- District allocations for the 2024/25 school year and further details about the funding allocation methodology are available [here](#).

Will funding allocations for 2025/26 and 2026/27 be determined using the same methodology?

- For the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school years, a total of approximately \$14.4 million will be allocated across school districts each year. However, the allocation methodology and district allocations for 2025/26 and 2026/27 are not yet finalized.
- ECC will be reviewing the Year 1 allocation methodology and adjustments may be made as the Action Plan for Years 2 and 3 is developed with the federal government in alignment with federal requirements.
- 2025/26 funding allocations will be shared with districts in summer 2025 and funding will be distributed in late November 2025.

What can this money be used for?

- Districts will have the flexibility to spend NSFP funding where it is needed most to expand and enhance school food programs.
- NSFP funding may be used following the same spending criteria as Feeding Futures funding, with the following exceptions/additions:
 - Districts may use funds towards major and minor food infrastructure, appliances, or equipment needed to prepare, store, cook, or transport food for programs. Food infrastructure improvements made with NSFP funding must not add square footage to an existing school facility or convert educational classroom space to a kitchen.

- Districts are encouraged to consider that, when using third parties to deliver school food programs and services, NSFP funding supports programs and services that are delivered predominantly by not-for-profit entities.
- Federal funding cannot be used to provide school food programs during school holidays however, funding may be spent in advance of the school year if it supports the delivery of school food programs during the school year. For example, districts may use NSFP funding for infrastructure or equipment upgrades during the summer, if the upgrades support the delivery of a food program during the school year. However, districts may not use NSFP funding to provide meals or snacks to students during school holidays such as summer, spring break, or winter holidays.

Can 2024/25 NSFP funding be spent next school year?

- Yes, districts will be able to spend 2024/25 funds in the 2025/26 school year. However, all 2024/25 funds should be spent by March 31, 2026.

Can funding be used for food security supports outside of school (e.g., during weekends or holidays)?

- NSFP funding must be used towards delivering school food programs during the school year.
- This means that federal funding cannot be used for home food security supports when school is not in session. Districts may, however, use discretion to allocate a small portion of Feeding Futures funding towards these types of supports.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

- Please reach out to your local school district or contact ECC.schoolfood@gov.bc.ca.

Feeding Futures Funding – School Year 2025/26

What is the purpose of Feeding Futures funding?

- Feeding Futures provides \$71.5 million in annual operating funding to make sure all students are fed and ready to learn by expanding existing school food programs in districts and schools that already have them and creating new ones in districts and schools without.

How much funding has been committed in the 2025/26 school year?

- For the 2025/26 school year, the following funding has been allocated:
 - \$71.5 million for districts for targeted food funding and school food coordinators,
 - \$5.0 million for minor capital enhancements required for school food programs through the Food Infrastructure Program.
- The allocation formula is consistent with the 2024/25 Feeding Futures allocation formula.

Who qualifies for this funding?

- The 60 public school districts in B.C.
- The funding is expected to reach approximately 20% of students in each district who need it most.
- District allocations for 2025/26 are available [here](#).

What can this money be used for?

- School districts continue to have the flexibility to use Feeding Futures funding to create and expand school food programs that best meet the needs of their students and local communities.

- Funding can be used for food purchases and staffing for up to one school food coordinator in each school district. Within reason, districts may use a portion of Feeding Futures funding to offset staffing costs for staff directly involved in the delivery of school food programs.
- Stable, ongoing funding will help districts to enter into long-term agreements and partnerships with non-profit organizations, local catering companies, and food suppliers/distributors.

Can salaries at the school level be paid for under this funding? For example, staff to organize and provide food services (food bags etc.)?

- The intent of the Feeding Futures funding is to directly support students and move towards ensuring that all students are fed and ready to learn.
- Within reason, districts may use a portion of Feeding Futures funding to offset staffing costs for staff directly involved in the delivery of school food programs. For example, this could include offsetting staffing costs for support workers or school administrators when they are directly involved in the delivery of food programs.
- However, funding is not intended to be used for administrative costs (e.g., reporting costs, HR costs, travel costs, laptops, additional insurance, etc.).

Can the 2025/26 school year funding be used over multiple years? For example, if a district has an allocation of \$800,000 can they plan to spend \$200,000 per year on lunches for the next four years?

- No, this commitment provides multi-year funding to address the immediate need of student hunger in the province.
- There should be no need to hold back funding for future years as districts now have a commitment of ongoing funding to plan for each year.

Are districts expected to offer universal food programs to students? What about weekend and holiday support?

- The funding is expected to reach approximately 20% of students in each district who need it most.
- In delivering school food programs, districts are encouraged to make best efforts to align programs with the [Feeding Futures Guiding Principles](#).
- Within reason, districts may use discretion to allocate a small portion of Feeding Futures funding towards home food security supports (e.g., grocery store gift cards, food hampers).
- Support from community non-profit organizations, corporate donors, and parent advisory councils continues to play a vital role alongside schools to address student hunger for weekends and school closures (e.g., spring break).

Can capital, for example fridges, or other equipment be purchased with this funding?

- The intent of the funding is to create and expand school food programs to directly support students, rather than to purchase capital items and equipment.
- However, if a school district can justify that it needs to purchase equipment to allow food programs to be delivered at a school, then this is permissible. Districts may reach out to ECC.schoolfood@gov.bc.ca if they have inquiries about using Feeding Futures funding for capital projects not specified in the Feeding Futures spending criteria.
- Alternatively, capital investments to enhance food security can be supported through the Feeding Futures School Food Infrastructure Program (FIP), a \$5 million per year program to assist boards of education with creating, improving, or expanding the delivery of food programs.

Can Feeding Futures funding be used to provide food to children in StrongStart BC programs?

- The intent of Feeding Futures funding is to create and expand school food programs for K-12 students.

- However, the funding is flexible so that districts can create or expand school food programs in a way that meets their local needs and priorities and, in some cases, it may make sense to provide food to children in StrongStart BC programs. Within reason, districts may use discretion to allocate some Feeding Futures funding towards supporting the provision of snacks for children attending StrongStart BC programs, if necessary.

Can we keep working with non-profit organizations or current community partners?

- Yes, community partnerships are essential for a long-term model of feeding students; non-profit organizations, corporate donors, and parent advisory councils will continue to play a vital role alongside schools to deliver school food programs.

Is CommunityLINK funding impacted in any way by new school food funding?

- There have been no changes to CommunityLINK. However, with Feeding Futures funding now available to support school food programs, districts are encouraged to utilize CommunityLINK funding for other student supports.

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