

Activities

Programs must provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment. Although there are no specific requirements for the types of educational and enrichment activities that a program can offer, examples include, but are not limited to, arts and crafts, homework assistance, life skills, remedial education, organized fitness activities, etc. Organizations should contact the Alabama State Department of Education for assistance in determining if an activity is eligible.

There is no requirement that all children receiving meals participate in the offered activities.

Institutions may contract with another organizations, including a for-profit entity to provide enrichment or educational activities for the afterschool program. However, the sponsor or independent center must retain administrative and fiscal responsibility for the meal service. Furthermore, the sponsor or independent center must be the party that enters into the agreement with the State of Alabama and must assume responsibility for meeting all meal service requirements, including ensuring that meals are served at eligible sites [CACFP 08-2012, At-risk Afterschool Meals Component of the CACFP, Questions and Answers, February 17, 2012].

Athletic Programs

Organized athletic programs that only participate in interscholastic or community level competitive sports (for example, youth sports leagues such as “Babe Ruth” and “PopWarner” baseball leagues, community soccer and football leagues, area swim teams, etc.) may not be approved as sponsors or independent centers in the Program. Students who are part of school sports teams and clubs can receive afterschool snacks or meals as part of a broad, overarching educational or enrichment program, but the program cannot be limited to a sports team [Fact Sheet: Athletic Programs and Afterschool Meals, October 2, 2012].

Additionally, afterschool programs that include supervised athletic activity may participate as long as they are “open to all” and do not limit membership for reasons other than space, security, or licensing requirements. For example, an afterschool police athletic league program that uses sports and recreational activities to provide constructive opportunities for community youth could be approved to participate [7 CFR 226.17a(b)].

Special Needs Programs

At-risk afterschool programs that are designed to meet the special needs of enrolled children or that have other limiting factors may be eligible to participate. These could include programs for children who have learning disabilities or for those who are academically gifted. Other targeted programs may be eligible as well.

Weekends, Holidays, and Vacations

Under the CACFP at-risk afterschool meals component, meals and snacks may be reimbursed if they are served on weekends or holidays, including vacation periods (for example, spring break), during the regular school year only. Meals and snacks served through CACFP on weekends or holidays during the school year may be served at any time of day approved by the State of Alabama [CACFP 08-2012, At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component of the CACFP, Questions and Answers, February 17, 2012].

In areas where schools operate on a year- round basis (i.e., the regularly scheduled school year is year- round), at-risk afterschool programs set up to serve children attending the year-round schools may receive reimbursement for meals and snacks through the CACFP all year [7 CFR 226.17a(b)(i)].

Summer Programs

At-risk afterschool programs that wish to continue operation over the summer months when school is not in session may be eligible to receive reimbursement for meals and snacks through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Both organizations and communities benefit when meals are offered to children in low-income communities year-round by participating in both At-risk Afterschool Meals and SFSP. Organizations benefit from having the ability to hire year-round staff, a continuous flow of reimbursements providing additional financial stability, and recognition in the community as a stable source of services. Communities benefit by having a partner that provides year-round nutrition services for children and brings increased Federal funds into the local economy. Please contact your State agency for more information about SFSP.