

HOW SCHOOLS PROCURE

The flow of money from the federal government to your local school

Yes- this IS confusing! However, it's important to have a base understanding of how the money flows because this impacts the types of foods being served, and the regulations schools have to follow.

FEDERAL



United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (USDA FNS)

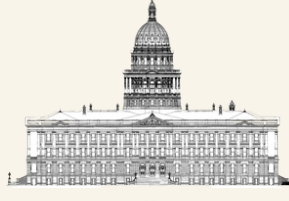
Administers child nutrition programs such as NSLP

Helpful Acronyms

1. DOD Fresh- Department of Defense Fresh- utilizes entitlement funds to supply schools with fresh fruit & veg
2. NSLP- National School Lunch Program- supplies low cost or free meals to students in public and nonprofit schools
3. SBP- School Breakfast Program- money towards low cost or free breakfasts for students

Click [here](#) for the procurement regulations set by USDA FNS. In Colorado, those who run school nutrition programs can set purchasing thresholds that are more restrictive than the federal level.

STATE



CO Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE)

Administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



CO Department of Human Services (CDHS)

Administers the Commodity Food Distribution Program and DOD Fresh



CO Department of Education (CDE)

School Nutrition Unit (CDE SNU)

Administers K-12 School Meals Programs like NSLP and SBP

Administers the Local Food Program



SCHOOLS



School Food Services

How much money do you have, and where are you going to spend that money?

Colorado voters passed Healthy School Meals for All which includes The Local Food Program (HSMA LFP) - allocating funds for schools to buy Colorado grown, raised, or processed foods.

Food Service Management companies may also manage school meal programs instead of a district being self-operated.

Common Terms for those who run School Nutrition Programs:

1. School Food Authority
2. Sponsor
3. School District - Nutrition Services
4. Charter Schools
5. Residential Child Care Institutions



School and Community Gardens



Farm Stand



Food Hub



Produce Distributors



Farmers Market



Grocery Store



Farmer or Rancher



USDA Foods & DOD Fresh



Large Distributors (broadliners, vendors)



Next step is to determine product amounts and how much money you're going to spend. See the "[Know Your Procurement Methods](#)" resource for information on purchasing methods.

