## School food program funding

Healthy eating, along with physical activity, is essential to promoting and maintaining good health and wellbeing.

Funding is available, for schools to deliver a food program. The funding aims to improve the quality of the food offered to students and expand access to healthy food and drink during the school day for students. Schools may also choose to use the funding to supplement other initiatives aimed at improving the access to and quality of food support.

### What can schools use the funding for?

Schools can use the funding to:

* purchase food to provide breakfast, lunch or other food and drink to students during the school day; or
* engage an external provider to deliver food to students during the school day; or
* partner with a non-government organisation or the school’s P&C, to deliver food to students during the school day;
* equipment to assist with the delivery of the program; or
* employ a casual coordinator to administer and deliver the food program for up to 10 hours per week;

### How do schools apply for funding?

All state schools can apply for funding from June 10, 2024.

### How will funds be allocated and paid?

Schools will provide a description of their school’s current food program including information on the proposed enhancements the funding will be used to implement. Enhancements could be:

* inclusion of a lunch program
* offering a food program on additional days
* improving the quality of food and drinks offered to students
* introduction of funded fruit and vegetable snack breaks for students

Schools with an ICSEA score under 1000 will be given priority for funding and funds will be distributed via a SAPA from July, 2024.

### Operating models

School food programs can operate in a variety of ways:

* extended tuckshop hours;
* facilitated by P&C or volunteers;
* facilitated by support staff (school food program coordinator, chaplain, student wellbeing officer); or
* partnership with community organisations (e.g. YMCA, Foodbank).

What if my school does not have a food program now?

Schools without a current food program are encouraged to apply.

Schools looking to set up a food program, or expand their existing program, should consult with staff and the school community to determine if there is support for a food program or for the expansion of the existing food program. Consider the goal or aim of the food program.

Consult with outside school hours care operators to determine if they provide food as part of their service, and where this is the case, determine solutions to resolve any potential impacts a free food program may have on their service provision.

Consider consultation with charity organisations and/or external businesses in the local area to determine if they are interested in supporting the establishment of or expansion of a food program at the school. If so, the school may wish to engage more than one service provider or develop an Expression of Interest process to determine which charity or business will support the program.

If an external organisation offers to donate food, will they expect to use the program to promote their organisation? How will this be managed so that the school is not seen to be promoting one organisation over another?

What food can schools serve?

School food programs should provide a variety of healthy food and drinks in line with the [Australian Dietary Guidelines](https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/) (External Link) and the menu must meet the requirements of the [Smart Choices Strategy](https://education.qld.gov.au/students/student-health-safety-wellbeing/student-health/smart-choices) (External Link).

Suggestions for menu planning are available on the [Smart Choices website](https://education.qld.gov.au/students/student-health-safety-wellbeing/student-health/smart-choices/healthy-eating) (External Link), through [Nutrition Australia](http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/national/resource/breakfast) (External Link), or [Life Education](https://lifeeducationqld.org.au/healthy-eats/for-schools/school-breakfast-program/) (External Link).

### Service agreements

If engaging with an external organisation, does the school have the capacity or need to set up a service agreement? If so, it should consider aspects such as:

* public liability, indemnity, registration requirements, blue cards and confidentiality;
* liability around asset damage, site rectification and hours of operation;
* student protection requirements;
* food safety;
* facilities and equipment;
* collaborative planning practices; and
* other elements as determined by the school in consultation with the relevant business areas.

Principals and school staff cannot, under the [Departmental Standard of Practice](https://qed.qld.gov.au/workingwithus/induction/workingforthedepartment/inductionandonboarding/Documents/code-of-conduct-standard-of-practice.pdf) (External Link), endorse or promote particular service providers.

Principals are strongly encouraged to contact their Regional Office when receiving requests or seeking to enter into a service agreement.

For schools wishing to participate in the [YMCA’s Schools’ Breakfast Program](https://www.ymcabrisbane.org/services/schools-breakfast-program) (External Link), the YMCA agreement has been reviewed by the department and meets departmental requirements. However, schools should ensure that the latest version of the [YMCA’s school breakfast program agreement](https://intranet.qed.qld.gov.au/Students/Wellbeing/Documents/ymca-school-breakfast-program-agreement.pdf) is used.

### Reporting of expenditure

Schools receiving the funding will be required to complete a survey at several points during the year and must include a photograph of their food program in action on their website.