

2023 SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAM



4NCKids!

North Carolina Non-Congregate Meal Service

Thanks to all the
dedicated summer
nutrition staff!



Overview of the Program

- The Summer Nutrition Program reimburses meal sponsors for serving free, healthy meals to children and teens ages 18 and younger in low-income areas during the summer.
- Meals can be served at a variety of types of locations and generally need to be eaten on-site in a group setting, which is referred to as congregate feeding. The requirement to serve meals in a congregate setting can create barriers to participation, especially in rural communities.
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 established a permanent Non-Congregate Meals (NCM) service option that allows summer meals to be eaten off-site in certain rural areas, including “rural pockets”, which are areas within counties not designated as rural but that were approved by USDA to serve NCM due to need and access limitations.
- USDA updated the definition of “rural” in a memo issued January 19, 2024; see the full definition of rural at www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designations-memo. To learn if a summer meal site fits into the revised rural classification, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation.
- During the summer of 2023, the NC Department of Public Instruction developed a process for approving school districts to serve NCM at eligible sites.

Non-Congregate Meal Service Highlights



8 school district sponsors operated NCM sites.

NCM sites served meals between **4 and 39 days** with an average of **27 days**.



Meals Served

Breakfast: 57,936

Lunch: 65,395

Supper: 0

Snack: 2,096



50 (2%) of the 2,492 meal sites in NC were NCM sites.

125,427 meals (3% of the 3.9 million meals served in NC) were served at NCM sites.



2023 Summer North Carolina Non-Congregate Meal Service



Check us out on social media!

@CarolinaHungerInitiative

@NCSchoolMeals

@Ray4NCKids

#SummerMeals4NCKids

Average Daily Participation at NCM Sites



1,445



2,178



1,434

Summer 2023 North Carolina Non-Congregate Meal Sponsors

Sponsor	Number NCM Sites	Total Meals Served at NCM Sites
Beaufort County Schools	8	10,524
Caswell County Schools	4	3,711
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	3	5,802
Jackson County Schools	3	4,124
Pender County Schools*	3	34,500
Whiteville City Schools*	9	4,706
Wilson County Schools	19	59,614
Yadkin County Schools*	1	2,446

*NCM sponsors allowed to serve meals in USDA-approved "rural pockets." Please see Overview of the Program on page 1 for additional details.

Data Sources: NC Department of Public Instruction Summer 2023 and September 2023 Meal Claims Data. Additional information on data and calculations used in this profile can be found here: CarolinaHungerInitiative.org/Profiles

Learn more about the NC Summer Nutrition Program: SummerMeals4NCKids.org