

How to Apply to Become a Sponsor in School Meal Programs

Federal school nutrition programs in California are administered by the California Department of Education (CDE), Nutrition Services Division. To apply to participate in these programs, please review the CDE School Nutrition Program Operator Application Process Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/app-process.asp>.

The Child Nutrition Information and Payment System (CNIPS) is a Web-based system for administering the federal and state nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Food Distribution Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and the Seamless Summer Feeding Option Program. This system significantly streamlines, simplifies, and modernizes the ways in which local educational agencies (LEAs/sponsors) administer these programs. Applications, site changes, claims for reimbursement, and other administrative actions are submitted in CNIPS. The CNIPS Web page contains more information about the system and can be accessed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/cn/#snp>.

A CNIPS tutorial is available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/cn/snptraining.asp>. This training page offers introductory “how-to” videos to acquaint you with the CNIPS system.

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