

Feeding Futures School Food Programs Fund – Instructions to School Districts

March 22, 2024

The Ministry is allocating \$71.5 million per year in dedicated, multi-year funding to school districts to create and expand school food programs.

District by district allocations for 2024/25 school year are in the [Summary of Grants to Date table](#). This funding is being disbursed under section 115(1)(a) of the *School Act*, should be treated as a Special Purpose Fund on the school district financial statements, and should be fully spent by June 30, 2025.

School Year (SY) 24/25

Districts will continue to have the flexibility that was in place during the foundational year (SY 2023/24), to continue to support students and families as longer-term approaches for school food programs are put into place. Although criteria will remain the same in 2024/25, criteria may be adjusted over time and districts can expect standardized spending criteria in place for the 2025/26 school year.

Feeding Futures School Food Program spending criteria:

- Food
 - Must be towards the delivery of food programs to feed students who need it most (e.g., maintain current programs, increase number of students served, increase nutrition of food).
 - Spending may support food for Culinary Arts programs if the food produced by the program is provided to students in need.
 - Program delivery may include the procurement of third-party food service providers and/or expansion of existing contracts.
 - Districts are encouraged to use nutritious and B.C.-grown/produced food where possible.
 - Program delivery should be stigma-free, flexible, and respect student privacy.
- Staff
 - Flexibility to hire up to one School Food Coordinator FTE if needed or offset existing costs to a School Food Coordinator.
 - Functions of role may include coordination and/or delivery of the program (e.g., prepare food, build community connections, seek local partnerships and procurement opportunities, work with local First Nations and Indigenous partners).
 - Within reason, districts may use a portion of Feeding Futures funding to offset staffing costs for staff directly involved in the delivery of school food programs.
- Other
 - Small appliances or equipment to prepare, store, cook, and transport food from a school with a kitchen to another school (e.g., kitchen utensils, insulated containers, microwaves).
 - Continuity of Student and Family Affordability Fund supports that improve student food security (e.g., grocery store gift cards, food for weekends and school closures).

Reporting

- School districts will be required to return a completed report to the ministry by July 31, 2025 outlining how funds were spent in 2024/25.
- A high-level interim report will also be required in December 31, 2024.
- As a reminder, year-end financial reporting for 2023/24 Feeding Futures funding will be required by July 31, 2024.
- A reporting template will be distributed and will ask for **Spending on School Food Programs** including:

- School food programs offered and number of students served.
- Utilization of third-party food service providers.
- Food purchased and provided using district staff.
- Other goods, services and/or programs to feed students that are within the policy direction.
- Spending to provide home food security supports.
- Staffing costs to directly support the provision of food programs.
- Operational spending targeted to food programs prior to the Feeding Futures funding announcement redirected to supporting educational programs.
- Administration or overhead spending (e.g., equipment, non-food supplies).
- Engagement and decision making processes regarding Feeding Futures funding, including engagement with Indigenous Education Council (IEC or local equivalent) and how Indigenous students are supported.
- Reporting will be required at the end of the school year, in addition to the reporting in the Annual Budget and audited Financial Statements for 2024/25.

Future Considerations

- Building the capacity in each district to work towards stigma-free access to nutritious food for any students who need it will take time.
- Each district's long-term delivery model of school food programs is expected to be stigma-free in addition to supplementing with coordination from the surrounding community.
- Community inclusion (e.g., local First Nations and other Indigenous partners, non-profit organizations, corporate donors, parent advisory councils) will be an essential component of each district's long-term model. District Parent Advisory Councils should be included in the long-term planning process.
- The multi-year funding commitment supports districts to enter into long-term agreements (e.g., food service management companies, non-profit organizations, local catering companies, food suppliers/distributors).