

## Food Safety Requirements in School Meal Programs Frequently Asked Questions

### Do [service-only sites](#)<sup>i</sup> need to obtain two food safety inspections?

Yes. Even though the inspection agency may not consider service-only sites as food service establishments because they don't prepare food, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires all sites that meet the definition of "school" under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to obtain two inspections.

### Do [non-traditional school settings](#)<sup>ii</sup>, such as Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) or Indian reservations need to obtain two food safety inspections?

Yes. Some program operators are not within the jurisdiction of a state or local public health department responsible for food safety inspections.

- Schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) should obtain their inspections from the Indian Health Service (IHS).
- RCCIs should obtain their inspections from state licensing or local health departments.

### What should be done when [food safety inspections have been requested](#)<sup>iii</sup> from the state or local public health department and these agencies are unable to perform the inspection(s)?

The school is responsible for requesting the food safety inspections and documenting their requests. If they are unable to get the inspections, they should ask in writing for the denial of the inspection(s) and the reason for the denial and keep this documentation on file.

### What Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Child Nutrition Programs are [required to have a food safety program](#)?<sup>iv</sup>

- National School Lunch Program, including National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO)
- School Breakfast Program
- Afterschool Snack Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program (operated by schools)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (operated by schools)

### What areas does the school food safety plan need to cover?

The plan must include all locations where food is stored, prepared, or served outside of the cafeteria.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/food-safety-inspections-service-only-sites-participating-school-meals-programs>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/food-safety-inspections-non-traditional-school-settings>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/responsibility-request-food-safety-inspections>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/enhancing-school-food-safety-program-faqs>