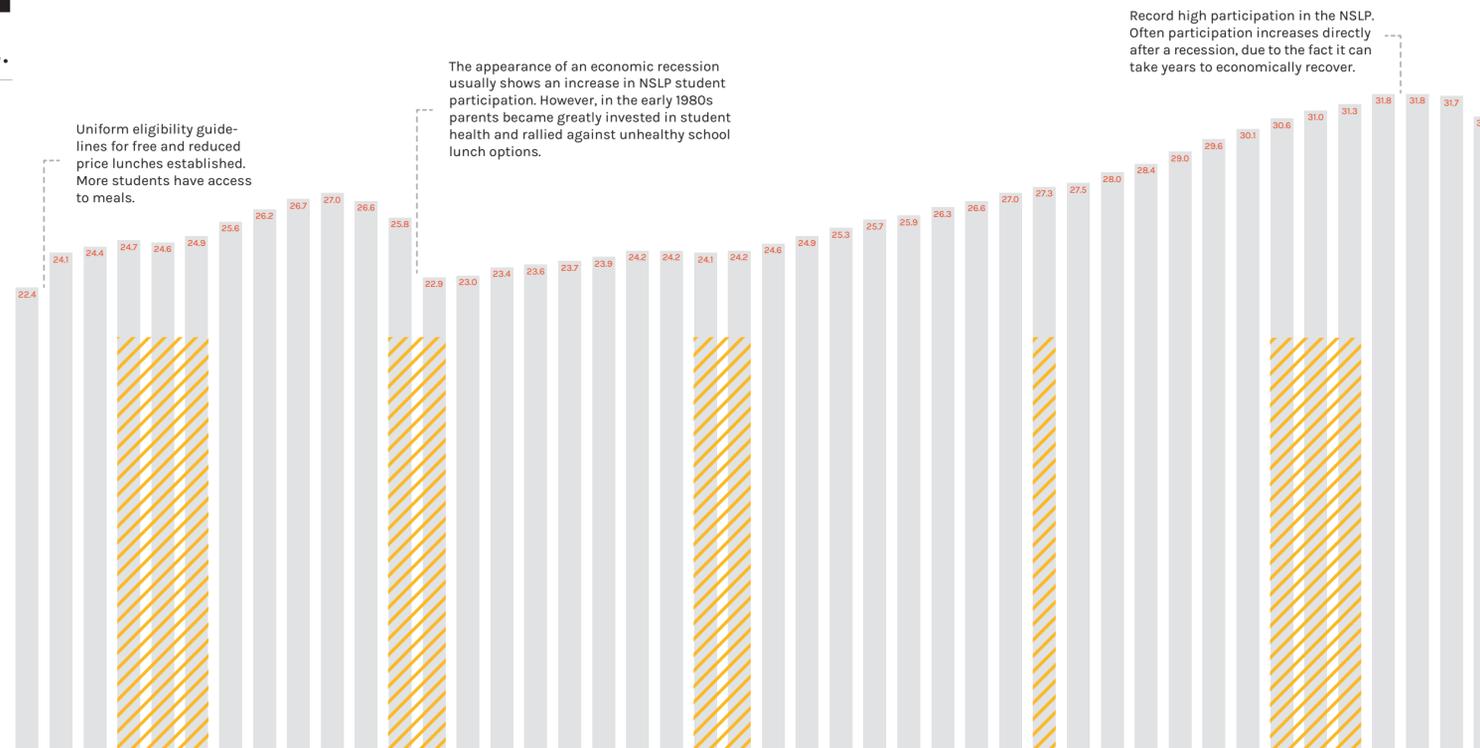
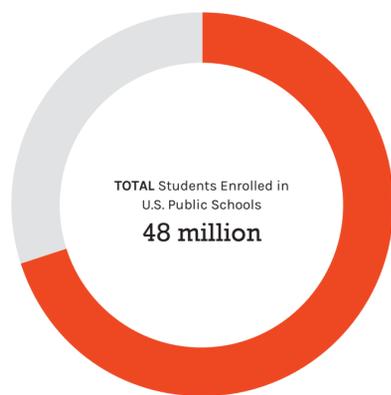


School Lunch

Serving up a dedication to feeding students for nearly 70 years.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) works miracles daily. But it has never been a smooth road for them. Between budget cuts, frenzied media coverage, and the ever-changing public opinion, it has managed to still feed more than 1.2 trillion students across the US for over 68 years, since it's establishment by President Truman in 1946.

Other options: Bring lunch, go off school grounds, or eat from vending machines.



U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN NSLP (in millions)

While data was not collected in the early years of the NSLP, it is clear that though participation fluctuates from year-to-year, there is a great need by students in the US to receive at least one hot meal a day, if not more. The NSLP provides a valuable service.

- 2013 TOTAL NSLP Student Participation: 30,700,000
- 2013 TOTAL Fantasy Football Participation: 25,800,000
- 2013 TOTAL National Rifle Association Members: 4,000,000
- 2013 TOTAL Public School Teachers in US: 3,700,000
- 2013 TOTAL Active US Military: 1,369,532

1946

National School Lunch Act passed by President Truman.

This act as passed after the investigation into the health of young men rejected in the WWII draft showed a connection between physical deficiencies and childhood malnutrition.

Previously, funding was year-to-year with no guarantee to schools that they would receive enough to feed their students the following school year. By passing this legislation, the federal government committed long-term to feeding the school children of the US, their academic success, and ultimately in the future of the US.



President Harry S. Truman
1945-1953

1953

School lunches required to be served "hot."

The National Parent & Teacher Association (PTA) gained popularity in the early 1950s. They rallied for school lunches to be served "hot" because they believed the health benefits increased. They did not approve of a cold lunch, such as a sandwich.



1952

National School Lunch Act first amended.

Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands start receiving funds to serve meals to students.



1960

Pizza introduced as "ethnic" food.

In an effort to add variety to school lunches, food from other cultures were introduced. The first being Italian pizza.



1959

Vending machines introduced in schools.

They offer chips, crackers, candy bars and soda, providing an additional food source during school hours.



1970

Criteria established for student participation at reduced-price and free meals.

Congress reauthorizes and discuss regulations for federal programs under the Child Nutrition Act. This includes the NSLP.

1967

First pilot program authorized for serving school breakfast (toast and milk).

Participating schools were required to have high attendance in areas with poor economic conditions.

Responsibility of funding for the NSLP and NBP are transferred to the USDA (United State Department of Agriculture).



1966

Child Nutrition Act passed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

NSLP extended to more schools and overall expanded and strengthened through an increase of funding.

The Act and President Johnson also encourages the consumption of domestic agriculture.



1982

Tofu introduced as a suitable meat substitute.

Previously only beef, chicken, pork were accepted under regulation. Fish was also accepted, but often disregarded due to being cost prohibitive.



1981

Ketchup counts as a single serving of vegetables.

President Regan's administration proposes that ketchup count as a vegetable in school meals. USDA rescinds ruling one month later.



1980

Federal funding for NSLP drastically reduced.

Up keep and purchase of food service equipment (stoves, pots & pans, ovens) is terminated. Use of frozen, quickly heated and pre-made foods increases.

1995

Nutrient Standard Menu Planning implemented.

School menus are planned and analyzed by USDA-nutrient analysis computer software programs.

1994

The Healthy Meals for Americans Act is passed.

Attempt by Congress to lower the amount of fat and sodium in daily student meals.



1992

Food Guide Pyramid introduced by USDA.

Represents the optimal number of servings to be eaten by Americans daily from each of the basic food groups. It is applied to the NSLP shortly afterwards.



2004

Non-dairy drink allowed to replace milk with lunch.

Congress passes the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, with new amends.

2003

Attempt to reduce beef consumption in school lunches fails.

Policy shot down by The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a major federal funds contributor.



2002

Federal Farm Act passed.

Provides \$6 million for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program in schools.



2013

"Pink Slime" fed to students.

Media reports that students are being served ammonia treated ground beef. Parents outraged, but many schools continue serving it.



2012

First Lady Michelle Obama launches "Let's Move" Program.

Program is dedicated to raising a healthier generation of children.

Coincides with USDA changing the nutritional quality and regulations of student meals.



2011

Schools can serve unlimited potatoes each week.

U.S. Senate blocks the USDA from putting a 2 serving limit on potatoes each week.



2010

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act passed by President Obama.

New, healthier dietary guidelines are added to the NSLP to limit malnutrition across the USA.

