



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

What Is the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program?

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides free, fresh fruits and vegetables to children at eligible elementary schools during the school day. The goal of FFVP is to introduce children to new fresh fruits and vegetables and increase overall their acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce. The FFVP also incorporates nutrition education.

Who Administers FFVP?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers FFVP at the Federal level. At the State level, FFVP is administered by State agencies, which operate FFVP through agreements with local school food authorities.

How Does FFVP Work?

FNS encourages schools to serve a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Because the intent of FFVP is to introduce children to new and different fresh fruits and vegetables, the produce must be served in a way that is easily identifiable, encouraging children to enjoy fruits and vegetables “as they are.” Participant schools must serve the fresh fruits and vegetables outside the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program meal service times. Beyond these requirements, schools have flexibility in determining their implementation plans. Schools may decide the type of produce served, the number of days per week to serve the produce (though schools are strongly encouraged to serve it a minimum of 2 days per week), and the time of day they serve it, outside of the breakfast and lunch meal service.

How Can Schools Qualify for FFVP?

Elementary schools in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are eligible to participate. Schools must operate the National School Lunch Program in order to operate FFVP. Importantly, FFVP prioritizes schools with the highest percentage of children certified as eligible for free and reduced-price meals. This is because children from low-income families generally have fewer opportunities to consume fresh produce on a regular basis.

Where Can I Go To Learn More About FFVP?

For more information, please contact the State agency responsible for administering FFVP in your State: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss FFVP?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at fns.govaffairs@usda.gov.

Key Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Data	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Total transfer (in millions)	\$157	\$164	\$168	\$172	\$176

FY = Fiscal Year