

USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

A research brief about school year 2022–2023

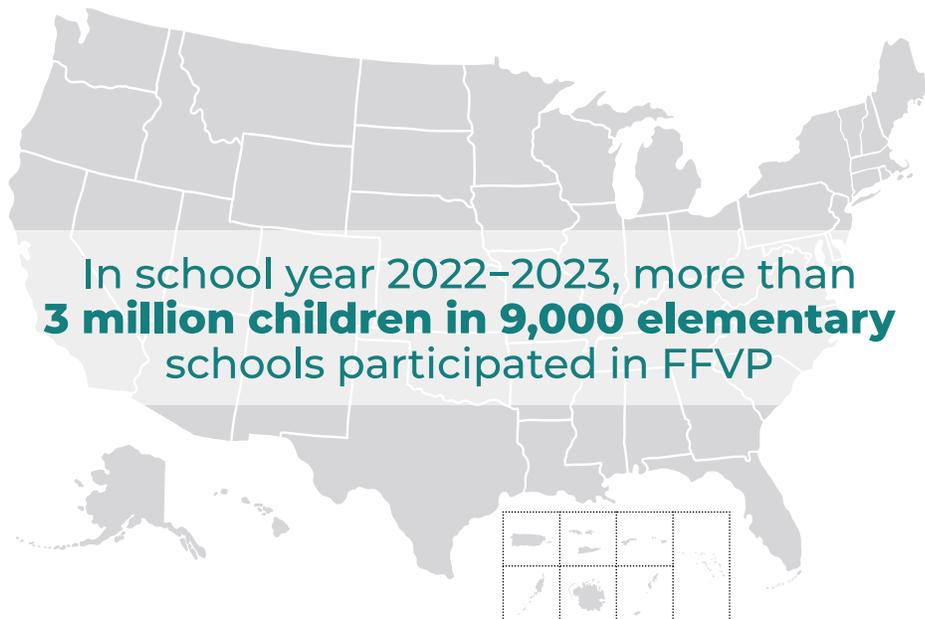


Key Takeaways

- In school year 2022–2023, more than 3 million students in 9,000 elementary schools nationwide participated in Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).
- Nearly all State agencies that returned unused FFVP funding did so because schools did not use all the funding awarded to them during the school year.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides all children in participating elementary schools with free fresh fruit and vegetable snacks during the school day. Children get regular opportunities to eat fresh produce and try fruits and vegetables that may be new to them.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) gives FFVP funding to the 50 States, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands ([FNS 2022](#)).¹ Elementary schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program may apply to participate in FFVP. State agencies encourage schools to apply if they have a high percentage of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and prioritize giving FFVP funds to these schools ([42 USC 1769a](#)).²

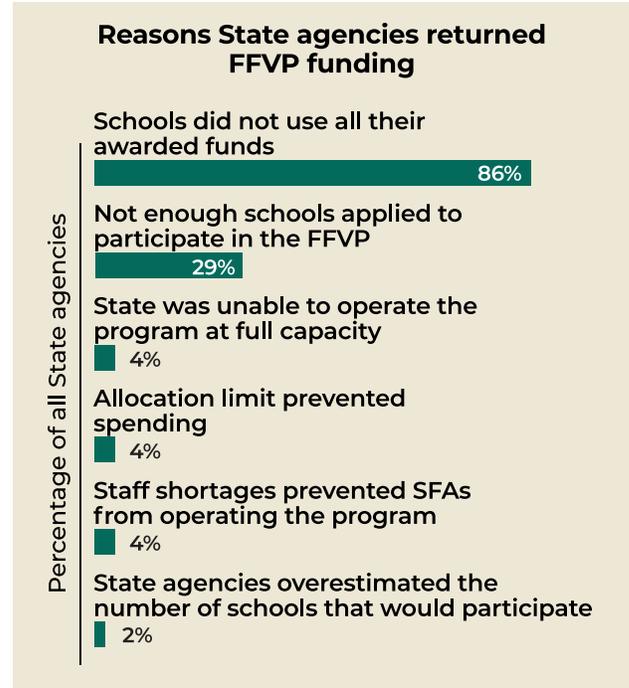


In SY 2022–2023,
23%
of elementary schools applied to participate in FFVP and State agencies were able to provide funding to
92%
of the applicants.

State agencies must return any unused FFVP funding to FNS at the end of the year. At the end of school year 2022-2023, four States did not return any money, but most returned a small amount:

- 22 State agencies returned 10 percent or less,
- 13 State agencies returned 10-25 percent,
- 13 State agencies returned 25–50 percent, and
- 2 State agencies returned more than 50 percent of their funds (FNS 2024).³

As shown in the chart on the right, the most common reason for returning funds was because individual schools didn't use all of their funding. Almost one-third of State agencies returned funds because not enough schools applied to participate in the FFVP. Very few State agencies returned funds for other reasons.



About the data reported here

This study was sponsored by USDA FNS. The information reported in this brief was collected from an online survey of all 56 State agencies that oversaw the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or Seamless Summer Option during SY 2022–2023. The data tables are available in Supplement B.3.

Suggested citation

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Disclaimer

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References

- ¹ Food and Nutrition Service. "Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Allocation of Funds for FY 2023." Memorandum to regional directors of child nutrition programs, all regions and to State directors of child nutrition programs, all States, June 23, 2022. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ffvp/allocation-funds-fy-2023>.
- ² Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. 42 USC 1769a. Updated 2025. <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title42-section1769a&num=0&edition=prelim>.
- ³ Food and Nutrition Service. "SF-425, FY 2023." Federal Financial Report. 2024. Unpublished data from the National Data Bank.