

UNIVERSAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Universal Nutrition Program (UNP) ensures that food is available to all students in every school in Winnipeg School Division, at no cost to families.

The UNP provides meals and/or snacks to students during regular school hours. It does not support food for extra-curricular activities, after-school programs, classroom events, staff, or families.

All schools in WSD must offer a daily snack and/or meal program to all students throughout the school year.

What does “universal” mean?

“Universal” means universal access, not universal participation. Students are not required to take part, but all students must be able to access food at school without barriers, at no cost, and without showing proof of need.

This approach follows Manitoba’s Public Schools Act, Bill C-17 (“Nello’s Law”).

Program details

The type and level of meal and/or snack service at each school depends on community need, staff capacity, kitchen facilities, budget, and divisional policy.

School administrators work with divisional and school staff to design a program that best fits their school community.

The UNP can support breakfast, lunch, and/or snacks. Food is served only during school hours and only to students.

Informing families

School administrators must share information about their school’s UNP throughout the school year using established school communication channels such as their student handbook, website, and/or newsletter.

Schools must also regularly share menus so families can make informed decisions about participating in the program.

School administrators, food coordinators, and support staff should gather feedback from students and families through surveys, student projects, or other engagement opportunities.

Providing safe food

Food served through the UNP must align with:

- » [Winnipeg School Division’s IGAEA Nutrition Policy](#)
- » [Canada’s Food Guide](#)
- » [Province of Manitoba Moving Forward with School Nutrition Guidelines \(2014\)](#)

Schools are encouraged to include culturally relevant foods and dishes whenever possible.

All staff share responsibility for maintaining safe food environments and handling food in ways that reduce risk to students.

Winnipeg School Division has publicly tendered contracts with food suppliers. A UNP must purchase food only from approved vendors.

All schools are registered with Manitoba Health to operate the Universal Nutrition Program.

Funding

UNP funding is intended to supplement a school’s existing nutrition program, if they have one.

Schools can still apply for community grants such as Breakfast Club of Canada (BCC), Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (CNCM), and others.

Community grants follow the same nutrition standards, guidelines, and processes as the UNP.

For more information, contact:

wsdnutritionprogram@wsd1.org



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION