

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Meals Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

## BUDGET

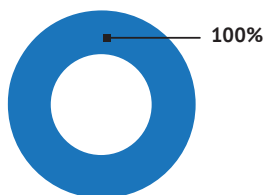
Total: Unknown\*

- Government: Unknown\*
- International donors\*\*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture  Yes  No  No response

\*Local authorities decide on the amount of money allocated for school feeding, and the total (aggregate) amount is not tracked by the the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

\*\*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Iceland have electricity, clean and piped water, flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. The kitchens are equipped with refrigeration and electric stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

None

## MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Soft drinks, sweets, fast food

## FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- In-kind (foreign)

## COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

## COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

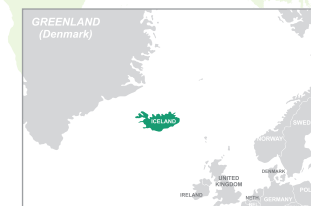
The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number FX18TA-1096OG002.

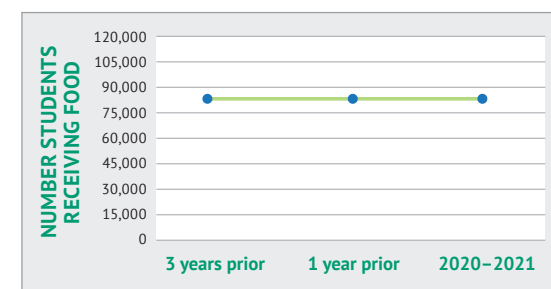
# REPUBLIC OF Iceland



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

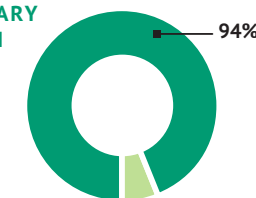
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	18,876	18,876	18,876
Primary school	46,688	46,688	46,688
Secondary school	22,369	22,369	18,281
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,933</b>	<b>87,933</b>	<b>83,845</b>



### COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 69,057

Receiving school food: 64,969



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

## NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:

- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved**
- Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition
- Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- Objective to reduce obesity**

### Food items fortified/biofortified:

Not applicable

### Micronutrients:

Not applicable

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Public Health Institute has prepared nutritional guidelines for school meals, and a company (Healthy Lunch) is engaged to calculate the nutritional balance of the meals. Some food items are prohibited on school grounds for health-related reasons, and various education programs (food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education) are incorporated into the school curriculum to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

School meal provision, health, and cognitive function in a Nordic setting – the ProMeal-study.

Summary from stakeholder meeting on school meals in Iceland.

## RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

Cooks and food preparers  
Transporters  
Off-site processors  
Food packagers and handlers  
Monitoring  
Food service management  
Safety and quality inspectors  
Other

*\*If blank, no response was provided.*

### Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

Yes  No  No response

### Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

Yes  No  No response

### There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

Women  Other groups  
 Youth  No response

### There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...

Yes  No  No response

### Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

Yes  No  No response

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Open-bid (competitive tendering) procurement processes are used in the School Meals Program, and small companies/small-scale farmers are able to compete successfully. In some schools, private companies are responsible for planning, preparing, and serving school meals, while other schools undertake these tasks on their own.

## CONTACTS: ICELAND

**Agency:** Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

**Website:** <https://www.stjornarradid.is/raduneyti/mennta-og-menningarmalaraduneytid/>

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Iceland, the Public Health Institute of Iceland has periodically conducted surveys on what children are offered in schools and has concluded that the food variety has improved over time. In addition, school staff and other employees understand and apply instructions from the Public Health Institute in terms of healthy and nutritious food. Overall, there is effective cooperation between the Public Health Institute of Iceland and the municipalities. Among the challenges that remain, there is a need for greater collaboration with the private sector, and there is a need to make suitable recipes that meet the nutritional guidelines available for the school canteen personnel. School canteen facilities have improved considerably, though conditions are still inadequate in some schools.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In July–August 2020, Iceland joined the national free school meal voucher scheme. So far, over £183 million worth of vouchers have been converted into supermarket gift cards to give parents more options when shopping for their families. Moreover, Iceland established a Covid Summer Food Fund to ensure that children eligible for free school meals would continue to have access to food during the summer holidays. Schools remained open for in-person learning in the 2020–2021 school year. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were served meals at school in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time). Since March 2021, a volcanic eruption in the Geldingadalir valley has also affected Iceland.



## SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Five times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Universal

### HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	18,876	–	–
Primary school	46,688	–	–
Secondary school	18,281	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,845</b>	–	–

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Meat	Fruits
Roots, tubers	Poultry	Oil
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Fish	Salt
Dairy products	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Eggs	Other vegetables	Water

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

- Purchased (domestic)
  In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
  In-kind (foreign)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Meals Program began in 1995, and school authorities are responsible for running the school canteens together with the municipalities. The cost of school meals is covered partly by the students' families and partly by the municipalities (i.e., students' families pay a partial price for school lunches).