

Listening Sessions

SB4
Kids Kitchens Healthy Meals
Rule Making Process

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Welcome & Team Introduction



What is a healthy meal?

- Our initiative will emphasize healthy, freshly prepared, and New Mexico-sourced meals.
- We believe that a healthy school meal should be appetizing, educational, freshly prepared, minimally processed, New Mexico-sourced, student and family-informed, and culturally responsive.
- Healthy meal improvement requirements will be determined through the rulemaking process.



How does it work?



1 Healthy, free meals for all - To ensure that every New Mexico student has access to high quality meals at no cost, the state will cover the price for all meals without consideration of students' eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meals. A tiered, performance-based reimbursement will result in higher quality meals for all New Mexico students.

Estimated cost: \$30 million



2 New Mexico Grown incentive - The state is taking this one step further by incentivizing schools to purchase even more local, high-quality, and healthy ingredients from New Mexico farmers, ranchers, and food businesses.

Estimated cost: \$2 million



3 School kitchen infrastructure improvement - Invest in school kitchen equipment and upgrades so that schools have what they need to prepare more healthy, scratch-cooked meals for students.

Estimated cost: \$20 million



4 School nutrition workforce and infrastructure investment - Support collaboration between universities, colleges, and other essential organizations to improve K-12 meal quality and strengthen nutrition workforce pathways in K-12 settings.

Estimated cost: \$400,000



5 Food waste prevention and rescue - Schools will achieve the lowest level of food waste by ensuring longer seat time for students in grades K-5, and rescuing food for reuse when possible.

Estimated cost: \$0



Topic Areas for Today

- New Mexico Grown – Purchasing and Processing Locally
- Freshly Prepared – Scratch Cooked Meals
- Engagement of Student and Family Voice
- Food & Nutrition Education
- Food Waste
- Certification Process



Rulemaking Timeline

Tentative Rulemaking Timeline	
Planning, drafting, and stakeholder engagement	December, 2023
Submit Notice and Rule Draft to the New Mexico Register	February 29, 2024
Notice and Rule Draft are published and public comment begins	March 12, 2024
Tribal Input Session	To be determined
Public Hearing	April 16, 2024
Submit Final Rule Draft to the New Mexico Register	April 25, 2024
Publication of Rule	May 7, 2024
Effective Date	May 7, 2024
*Dates are based on the New Mexico Register's 2023 Rulemaking Schedule. The 2024 Rulemaking Schedule has not been published yet.	



Let's Begin

