



SNAP in Schools: Partners to Engage

Strong SNAP in Schools efforts are built through partnerships. Different partners can support outreach, enrollment, building trust, and long-term systems change. Schools can engage one or many partners depending on their goals and capacity. Partners can also help ensure families receive clear, consistent, and coordinated messaging across the places they already trust and are receiving information. This reduces confusion and makes it easier to understand available supports and how to access them.

SNAP in Schools efforts are strongest when built through intentional partnerships. While schools play a critical role as a trusted access point for families, community partners provide additional expertise, capacity, and direct application support. Different partners may play different roles depending on the level of engagement, infrastructure, and family needs. Some partners may serve as implementation partners, while others may help amplify outreach, strengthen trust, or support systems coordination.

Core School Based Partners

Focus: Schools are already trusted by families and have deep insight into families

- School counselors and social workers
- School nurses and health staff
- Front office staff
- Teachers and paraprofessionals who have direct relationships with families
- School meal staff

Why they matter: They are often the first point of contact for families and can normalize conversations about SNAP while identifying needs.

Community Based Organizations (CBO)

Focus: Trusted messengers and culturally responsive outreach

- Local nonprofits and community based organization
- Faith based organizations
- Immigrant and refugee serving organizations
- Parent advocacy groups

Why they matter: They bring deep trust, language access, and cultural connection that schools alone may not have.

SNAP Outreach and Enrollment Partners

Focus: Application assistance and navigation support

- Food banks and food pantries
- SNAP outreach providers
- Community resource navigators

Why they matter: They provide hands-on support completing applications, troubleshooting issues, and following up with families.

School Based and Community Health Partners

Focus: Whole child and family wellbeing

- School based health centers
- Community health clinics
- Behavioral health providers

Why they matter: They are trusted access points for families and can integrate SNAP into broader health and wellness conversations.

Government Agencies

Focus: Systems alignment and process improvement

- County or state human services agencies
- Education agencies
- Public health departments
- Housing authorities
- Early childhood and child care agencies

Why they matter: They can help streamline processes, align outreach across programs, and reduce administrative barriers.

Lived Expertise and Family Voice

Focus: Co-designing solutions that actually work

- Parents, caregivers, and students
- Individuals with lived expertise navigating SNAP and/or other programs

Why they matter: They ensure strategies are relevant, accessible, and human centered.