



# EQUIPMENT LIST FOR SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

This resource lists equipment that you can use for school meal service whether meals are being served in the cafeteria, the classroom or elsewhere on the campus. It includes ideas for repurposing equipment that you may already have as well as options to consider for new or replacement equipment needs.

If your school nutrition department needs funding for equipment, reach out to colleagues, your state agency, SNA, National Dairy Council, USDA, and No Kid Hungry to identify grant opportunities.

Please note that the examples provided within this resource are not product recommendations. Be sure to check your district’s procurement process, then identify the items that meet your needs and any state or district regulations.

## Categories of Equipment

The equipment examples within this resource are separated into the following categories:

- Grab & Go Carts and Kiosks
- Equipment for Food Transport
- Packaging Equipment & Supplies
- Refrigerators, Ice Makers & Freezers
- Storage Serving Options
- Rolling Carts
- Water
- Point of Sale (POS) Systems
- Online Ordering
- Smoothie Machines
- Cleaning Supplies

## REPURPOSING & REUSING ITEMS

**What schools may already have:** carts, coolers, salad bars, bun racks, shelves with casters, dollies, refrigerators, storage spaces, and catering equipment.

How can you repurpose these items? Below are some innovative ideas/solutions that school nutrition leaders nationwide have shared:

- **Breakfast carts:** carts can be used to deliver meals to the classroom. Also, casters (cart wheels) can be added to shelving units to help deliver meals. Bun pan/bread racks can be used as needed for food delivery. Kitchen carts can also be used to deliver meals. Feeling creative? Decorating kitchen carts with poster paper can improve presentation.
- **Containers:** utilize existing containers in storage.
  - **Rolling ice caddies** can be used to roll meals out or as mobile milk boxes.
  - **Salad bars** can be used as storage for milk and cold food items as well as for delivery.
  - **Milk dollies** can be used to transport items to the classroom.
  - **Ice cream freezers** can be used to keep milk cold.

## EQUIPMENT EXAMPLES

### Grab & Go Carts and Kiosks

#### For meal delivery throughout campus



#### GRAB & GO CARTS

Colorful bins are used to hold meal components.

Example: [Hubert](#)

\$1,200-\$1,500



#### FLEX STATION

This cart can be used for Grab & Go stations. This unit is flexible depending on the need, can use trays or bins to set up for meal service and serve many students in narrow hallways.

Example: [Webstaurant](#)

\$700-\$2,400 depending on items selected



### FOLDING GRAB & GO CART

These carts are easy to relocate and can fold up to fit in a 2' X 2' space.

Example: [Piper](#)

\$ 1,999+



### GRAB & GO CART

Can accommodate 3 full-size food pans within its well. There is no built-in ice bin or heat source.

Example: [Hubert](#)

\$1,800-\$2,500



### GRAB & GO CART

Customizable snack kiosk with built-in insulated ice bin with drain.

Example: [Lakeside](#)

\$5,500

# Equipment for Food Transport

**This equipment can help transport meals to the classroom or other meal service locations on campus**



## THERMAL BAG

Available in multiple sizes. Typically, higher priced options are better quality, last longer, and keep better temperature.

Example: [Sterno](#)

\$60-\$160



## MEAL TRANSPORT BIN WITH LID

This item is used for shelf stable storage and delivery.

Example: [Orbis](#)

\$12



## EXAMPLE CART/BAG SET UP

This set up is commonly used for delivering meals to the classroom. Hot and cold items are stored separately. Note this is three separate pieces when you purchase. Estimated amount is for all three pieces.

Example: [Sterno](#)

\$250-\$280

# Packaging Equipment & Supplies

These can be helpful for packaging meals and a la carte items



## PACKAGING MACHINE

Manually operated, this seals 6-8 packages per minute (can buy or lease). If leased, you must buy containers.

Example: [Oliver sealer](#)

Contact vendor for pricing.



## PACKAGING MEALS

Trays, film and sealing equipment.

Example: [Form Plastics](#)

Pricing may start around \$2,475, contact vendor for pricing.



## FOOD PACKAGING

Bags designed to withstand hot and cold temperatures, Techni-ice to keep products cold or hot, and heavy-duty tape sealers.

Example: [Ekonopac](#)

Prices vary depending on items chosen, contact vendor for pricing



### BAG SEALING TAPE MACHINE

Used to seal bags to keep items fresh.

Example: [Innoseal](#)

\$55-\$95

Amazon: \$55 for machine (tape refills: 56 rolls \$95)

## Rolling Carts

For meal delivery to classrooms or other areas on school campus



### ROLLING CART

Dimensions (LWxH) 45x25x33", load capacity 500lbs. Weighs 43 lbs.

Example: [Uline](#)

\$129



### ROLLING CART

Black Steel 2-tier stocking cart 41.5 x18x41". Load capacity 800 lbs.

Example: [Hubert](#)

\$404



### HAND TRUCK

Has many uses including transport of meals to alternative service areas.

Example: [Sterno](#)

\$65



### LARGE 4-SHELF ROLLING CART

In addition to kitchen shelving, these carts can be used to transport thermal bags and trays to hallways and classrooms.

Cart can also be used to set up Grab & Go station baskets and crates.

Example: [Metro](#)

\$500-\$700



### MILK DOLLY

Used to transport boxes of heavy and bulky products to meal serving areas.

Example: [Webstaurantstore](#)

\$95-\$105

Depending on size



### **BASKET SHELVES**

May be able to convert existing shelving units.

Example: [Webstaurantstore](#)

\$75 +



### **SHEET PAN RACKS**

Sheet pan racks can be used to deliver meals to the classroom/other areas.

Example: [Webstaurantstore](#)

\$290 +

Example of Cambro Camshelving Ultimate 12



## Refrigerators, Ice Makers & Freezers



### REFRIGERATOR

Example: [Webstaraunt](#)

\$2,000-\$4,000 depending on size  
\$2,200 for a 1-door  
\$3,200 for a 2-door



### ICE MAKER

Great for serving and transporting cold items as well as for catering uses.

Example: [CKitchen](#)

Cost: \$1,800-\$3,600



### FREEZER

Example: [Webstaraunt](#)

\$2,500-\$4,500  
\$2,800 for a 1-door  
\$4,000 for a 2-door

## Storage Serving Options



### MILK COOLER

Milk coolers are typically use on the serving line, however if additional milk storage or cold transport is needed, milk coolers can be used. Available to accommodate 12 or 16 milk rates, depending on need.

Example: [Beverage-Air](#)

\$1,800-\$2,400



### REFRIGERATED AIR SCREENS

To keep items cool as they're on display, like drinks and prepackaged meals and snacks.

Example: [Avantco](#)

\$3,000+



### HOT/COLD MOBILE CABINETS

Cold mobile cabinets. Prices vary depending on size and quality. Contact local equipment representative for options.

Example: [Avantco](#)

\$200-\$1700

Depending on size

## Water Serving Options

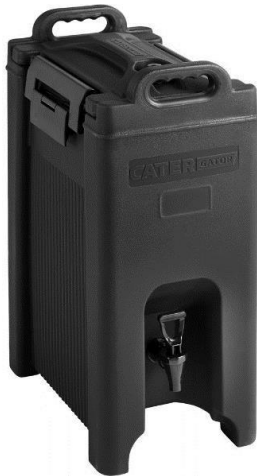


### WATER BOTTLE REFILL

Bottle Refill Stations

Example: [Elkay](#)

\$1,000-\$1,500



### LARGE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Can be used for water and other beverages

Example: [Webstaurantstore](#)

\$75-\$250

Variety of available capacities

## Point of Sale (POS) Systems



### **iPad**

Used for mobile accountability systems.

\$250-\$500



### **WIRELESS REGISTER**

Work with your school or district's IT department to determine what is the best solution for your school.

\$1,000-\$1,500



### **PIN PADS**

Work with your school or district's IT department to determine what is the best solution for your school.

\$200-\$700

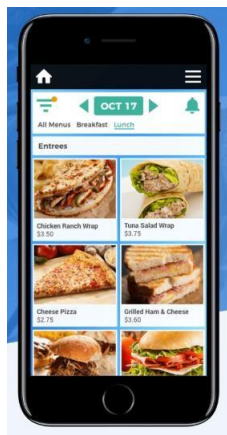


### SOFTWARE LICENSES

Schools usually add a license to their already existing software that they are using for school meals. If they are selecting a new software for their meal programs, they typically work with a specification list of their needs and their IT department to select potential vendors for providing the solutions that they need to operate and claim meals.

\$200-\$700

## Online Ordering



There are many meal ordering applications out there ([Choosi](#), [Linq](#), [Meal Magic](#), and [LunchApp](#) are a few that are being mentioned).

Some meal ordering modules may work independently of meal software. Check with your accountability software to see if there are online ordering modules that you can access.

Example: [Nutrislice](#)

Price varies

## Smoothie Machines



### SMOOTHIE MACHINES

Commercial grade, small blender, often used for breakfast smoothies.

Example: [Waring](#)

\$300-\$750

## Cleaning Supplies



### SANITATION WIPES FOR CLASSROOMS

6 count per case

Example: [Purell](#)

\$70 per case of 6



### CLASSROOM SORTING BIN

Recommended that schools/classrooms only receive these bins if they are required and trained to sort trash.

Example: [ULINE](#)

\$6.55 per bin



### HALLWAY TRASH COLLECTION STATION

Example: [Lavex](#)

\$27 per can; \$30 per dolly (not shown)



### 1 GALLON LEFTOVER MILK COLLECTION JUG

This is used to collect leftover milk to keep it from filling the garbage cans or collecting in classroom sink drains.

Example: [uline.com](http://uline.com)

\$3.89