

# Longmeadow Public Schools



**From:** Eliza Calkins, Foodservice Director  
**Date:** 2017/2018 School Year  
**Re:** Over versus Serve Policy

## Offer Versus Serve

A school lunch eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer 5 food components (milk, fruit, vegetables, grains, meat/meat alternatives). Students are allowed to decline 2 of the 5 required food components, but must select at least ½ cup of either fruit/fruits or a vegetable/vegetables or ½ cup fruit/vegetable combination. After selecting the ½ cup fruit or vegetable requirement, students must select at least 2 additional full components in the full amounts to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal. The student's decision to accept all 5 components or to decline 2 components shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The lunch is priced as a unit. Offer versus serve is the policy in all school cafeterias. Bagged lunches for special occasions will be exempted.

Offer versus serve (OVS) is a concept that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal, reducing food waste and food costs, and allowing students to select the foods they prefer to eat. This concept applies to National School Lunch Program.

For a lunch to be reimbursable under OVS, schools must meet the following criteria

- 1) All meals must be planned to meet the NSLP meal pattern requirements.
- 2) All five food components must be offered to all students including milk, fruits, vegetables, grains and meat/meat alternates.
- 3) The serving sizes for all food components must equal the minimum daily required quantities for each grade group specified in the NSLP meal pattern.
- 4) Meals must be priced as a unit, i.e., students pay the same price regardless of whether they take three, four or five food components
- 5) Students must take at least three of the five food components offered, including at least ½ cup of fruits or vegetables and the full serving (minimum daily requirement) of the other chosen food components.

## **Food Component Minimum Requirements**

### Meat/Meat Alternate

Grades	Daily Minimum Requirement	Weekly Requirement
K-5	1 ounce equivalent	8-10 ounce equivalents
6-8	1 ounce equivalent	9-10 ounce equivalents
9-12	2 ounce equivalents	10-12 ounce equivalents

Schools are only required to meet the daily and weekly minimum requirements for this food component. This policy is found at 7 CFR 210.7(d) (1) for eligibility to receive additional reimbursement and at 7 CFR 210.18(g) (2) (vi) for the purposes of administrative reviews. State agencies would consider SFAs compliant with the weekly ranges for this component if the FNS-developed or FNS-approved Certification Tool and required supporting documentation indicate the menu is compliant with the daily and weekly *minimums*.

## Vegetable Component

Grades	Daily Minimum Requirement	Weekly Minimum Requirement
K-5	¾ cup	3¾ cups
6-8	¾ cup	3¾ cups
9-12	1 cup	5 cups

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## Fruits Component

Grades	Daily Minimum Requirement	Weekly Minimum Requirement
K-5	½ cup	2 ½ cups
6-8	½ cup	2 ½ cups
9-12	1 cup	5 cups

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/def 3>

## Grain Component

Grades	Daily Minimum Requirement	Weekly Requirement
K-5	1 ounce equivalent	8-9 ounce equivalents
6-8	1 ounce equivalent	8-10 ounce equivalents
9-12	2 ounce equivalents	10-12 ounce equivalents

Schools are only required to meet the daily and weekly minimum requirements for this food component. This policy is found at 7 CFR 210.7(d) (1) for eligibility to receive additional reimbursement and at 7 CFR 210.18(g) (2) (vi) for the purposes of administrative reviews. State agencies would consider SFAs compliant with the weekly ranges for this component if the FNS-developed or FNS-approved Certification Tool and required supporting documentation indicate the menu is compliant with the daily and weekly *minimums*.

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## Milk Component

All schools/ grade levels must offer choices of two different 1 cup servings of milk.