



Wellness and Nutrition Services, Office of the Chief Operating Officer

MEMORANDUM

To: School Food Authorities

From: ***Lindsey Palmer***

Lindsey Palmer, RDN, LD
School Programs Manager

Date: August 14, 2015

Re: Updated Offer versus Serve Guidance for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Effective Beginning School Year 2015-2016

State Agency Memo

NSLP #18-15

This memo is to give School Food Authorities (SFAs) an updated guidance manual for Offer versus Serve (OVS) for School Year 2015-2016. All updates are highlighted in yellow in the manual.

OVS is optional for all grade levels for breakfast and required at the senior high school level for lunch. This guidance is intended to clarify the requirements of OVS, specifically related to what students must take in order to have a reimbursable meal.

OVS at Lunch

At lunch, schools must offer students all five required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at lunch are: meats/meat alternates; grains; fruit; vegetables; and fluid milk. Under OVS, a student must take at least three components in the required serving sizes. One selection must be at least ½ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.

OVS at Breakfast

At breakfast, schools must offer students all three required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at breakfast are: grains (with optional meats/meat alternates allowed); juice/fruit/vegetable; and milk. Under OVS, a student must be offered at least four food items and must select at least three food items, one of which must be ½ cup of fruit or vegetables for OVS.

All questions should be sent to your designated Program Specialist.