

Offer versus Serve (OVS)

A serving provision that allows students to decline some of the food offered while still being served a reimbursable meal.

**Required for breakfast/lunch in grades 9-12, but encouraged for all grades breakfast/lunch*
OVS is not allowed in the Afterschool Snack Program.*

PROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduces food waste & food cost - Promotes student choice - Increases student participation
CONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for students & staff - Not allowed for Afterschool Snack

Food Component – one of the required food groups at lunch and breakfast (grains, meat/meat alternates, fruits, vegetables, and fluid milk)

Food Item – a specific food offered within one of the five food components

OVS at Lunch

- **Offer** 5 required components
- The number of food items varies
- **Student Chooses** at least 3 components, one being at least ½ cup fruit/vegetable + 2 other full components

OVS at Breakfast

- **Offer** 3 required components
- **Offer** at least 4 food items
- **Student Chooses** at least 3 items, one being at least ½ cup fruit/vegetable + 2 other full items

**One of the components or items in an OVS meal MUST be at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetable. The other 2 components or items must be the full minimum serving size based on that grade level's meal pattern.*

- For example, at lunch, a 10th-grade student has ½ cups of peaches, ¼ cups of peas, and a grilled chicken breast. This is three components, but the peas are not the full 1 cup minimum for this grade level, so it is not reimbursable.
- For example, at breakfast, a 5th grade student has ½ cups of strawberries, milk, and ½ slices of toast. This is three items, but the toast is not the full 1 oz slice needed to meet the minimum, so it is not reimbursable.

Example Combination Items

(At the discretion of the menu planner, combination items can be counted as single or multiple items.)

Could be
counted as
1 or 3
items!

Smoothie:

½ cup pureed fruit
4 oz yogurt
8 oz milk



Could be
counted
as 1 or 2
items!

Large Muffin:
2 oz grain

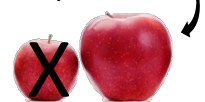


Breakfast Corndog:

1 oz meat
1 oz grain



Large Apple:
1 cup fruit



Don't forget to offer water to students at lunch and breakfast. Water cannot be promoted in place of milk.

Is it Reimbursable?

OVS at Lunch

(assume full serving size is provided)

1)



☐ Reimbursable ☐ Not Reimbursable

2)



☐ Reimbursable ☐ Not Reimbursable

3)



☐ Reimbursable ☐ Not Reimbursable

OVS at Breakfast

(assume full serving size is provided)

1)



☐ Reimbursable ☐ Not Reimbursable

2)



☐ Reimbursable ☐ Not Reimbursable

3)



☐ Reimbursable ☐ Not Reimbursable

Pre-plated meals/Serve only

When OvS is not used, meals must include ALL required components in their full minimum serving sizes to meet the meal pattern.

PROS	- Less training for students & staff	CONS	- Increases food waste/food cost - Increases meals from home - Only allowed for grades K-8
-------------	--------------------------------------	-------------	--

Lunch Reimbursable meals are #1 & #2. Lunch #3 does not have 3 components.
Breakfast Reimbursable meals are #2 & #3. Breakfast #1 does not have 1/2 cup fruit or vegetable.