

OSPI CNS School Meal Programs Reference Sheet

Offer versus Serve

Offer versus serve (OVS) allows students to decline some of the foods offered in a reimbursable lunch or breakfast. The goals of OVS are to allow students to decline some of the foods offered and to reduce food waste.

Definitions

- ✓ Food Component: One of the food groups that comprise a reimbursable meal (examples: fruit, grains, milk)
- ✓ Food Item: A specific food offered within the food components (example: muffin, apple, burrito)

General Requirements

- ✓ Students have the option to decline item(s)
- ✓ Meals are priced as a unit, even if a component(s) or item(s) is declined.
- ✓ Full amount of each component must be available to choose

Lunch OVS Requirements

- ✓ Required at senior high school/optional at lower grades
- ✓ Student must select 3 of the 5 components, in the planned serving size
- ✓ Student must select at least ½ cup serving of fruit and/or vegetable as one of the components selected

Breakfast OVS Requirements

- ✓ Optional at all grade levels
- ✓ Menu must include at least 4 food items
- ✓ Student must select at least 3 food items
 - For grains (or meat/meat alternate offered as grains) and milk, the student must select the planned serving size
- ✓ Student must select at least ½ cup fruit as one of the items selected



Reference:

- [CFR 210.10](#)
- [CFR 220.8](#)
- [USDA OVS Guidance Manual](#)

Resources:

- [OVS trainings](#)

Acronym Reference

- CFR- Code of Federal Regulations
- CNS- Child Nutrition Services
- OVS- Offer versus Serve
- OSPI- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- USDA- United States Department of Agriculture