

OSPI Summer Meals Reference Sheet

Offer Versus Serve in the Rural Non-Congregate Sites

Offer Versus Serve (OVS) is an optional service model available only to school sponsors operating non-congregate programs; however, there are specific requirements and considerations that apply when implementing OVS. Sponsors must make sure this flexibility is used in a way that protects program integrity, where each site follows meal pattern requirements and food safety rules. OVS lets children decline some of the food items offered in a reimbursable breakfast, lunch/supper as long as minimum servings are met. OVS is not allowed at snack. OVS helps reduce waste and costs while still serving balanced meals children will like.

Important Implementation Requirements

- A child must be able to decline or accept any component offered and can choose to take all items during a meal if they wish.
- OVS must be approved by OSPI before utilizing this option and Canvas online training must be completed.

Sponsors must consider the unique service conditions at each site and plan to review them with their program specialist during the application process.

OVS Meal Requirements	
Breakfast:	Lunch or Supper:
<p>Must offer the 3 required components and 4 food items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One serving of fruit/vegetable 2. One serving of grains 3. One serving of milk 4. One additional food item from any of the food component groups: fruit/vegetable, Grains, or meat/meat alternate (M/MA) <p>A child must choose 3 different food items for the meal to be reimbursable. Food items must be different from each other. E.g., two types of cereals are the same food item.</p>	<p>Must offer 4 required components and 5 food items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One serving of meat/meat alternate (M/MA) 2. Two different food items of fruits/vegetables (totaling 3/4 cup or more) 3. One serving of grains 4. One serving of milk <p>A child must select at least 3 different food components for the meal to be reimbursable. Food items must be different from each other. E.g., pear and apples are not identical; they are different items in the same component.</p>

Examples:

- Single day distribution sites may have a buffet style selection at meal pick-up sites.



- Sponsor may have an online ordering system where children choose their meals for pick up or delivery.
- Sponsor may have a survey at the beginning of the line and provide children with the options they selected.

Resources:

- [Summer-Food-Service-Program-Administration-Guide](#)
- [Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Questions and Answers 1](#)
- [Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers 2](#)
- [Summer Toolkit: Offer Versus Serve](#)
- [SFSP Offer vs Serve](#)
- [SFSP Multi-Day Tool kit](#)