

OSPI CNS School Meals Programs Reference Sheet

Milk Dispensers

Milk dispensers are an alternative option to serving milk in cartons in school meal programs that has numerous benefits environmentally, economically, and nutritionally. OSPI encourages schools to consider this alternative milk service option as a means to reduce milk and milk carton waste, and potentially decrease waste collection expenses and increase milk consumption.

Requirements

- ✓ An 8 fluid ounce portion of milk must be available to all students during each meal service
- ✓ Milk must be offered before the point of service.
- ✓ In order for milk to count as one of the components needed for a reimbursable meal, at least an 8 fluid ounce portion must be poured and/or selected by a student.
 - If OVS is implemented, smaller portions may be poured by a student, but milk may not be counted as one of the three required components for a reimbursable meal.
- ✓ At least two types of milk must be offered for SBP and NSLP meal services.
 - At least one type of milk offered must be unflavored.

Best Practices:

- Use durable reusable cups that are at least 10 fluid ounces in size
- Mark cups with a line at the 8 fluid ounce level to help account for amount of milk poured
- Train point of service staff on identifying an 8oz glass of milk
- Put signage on or near the milk dispenser that explains how much milk needs to be poured, depending on meal service style and other components a student may have selected
- Make sure there is a space for students to place their tray while using the milk dispenser
- Placing the milk dispenser just before the POS and closer to seating areas can help reduce spills
- Have a plan in place to manage milk dispenser refills during or between meal services
- Make sure milk dispensers are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis

Reference:

- [CFR 210.10](#)

Resources:

- [Clark County Green Schools](#)
- [Vermont Department of Agriculture](#)

Acronym Reference

-CNS	Child Nutrition Services
-FDP	Food Distribution Program
-OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
-USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
-OVS	Offer Versus Serve