Offer versus Serve

Offer versus serve (OVS) allows students to decline some of the food 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, grain, milk)
- **Food Item**: A specific food offered within the food components (example: muffin, apple, burrito)

**General Requirements**

- Student’s option to decline items(s)
- Meals are priced as a unit, even if a component(s) or item(s) are 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 daily minimum required amount
- 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**

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<tr>
<td>-CFR</td>
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<tr>
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