

Topic: National School Lunch Program Afterschool Snack Service

Overview:

The National School Lunch Program Afterschool Snack Service is snack service that provides reimbursement to encourage or assist schools in serving snacks to children after the regular school day. The afterschool snack component of the NSLP helps children fully engage in afterschool programming by filling the hunger gap many children face in the afternoon and early evening.

Eligibility:

- ✓ The School Food Authority must participate in the National School Lunch Program to be eligible to participate in the Afterschool Snack Service.
- ✓ The Local Education Agency (LEA) must operate or sponsor an afterschool care program.
- ✓ The afterschool care program must provide children with regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a supervised environment.
- ✓ Organized interscholastic programs or community-level competitive sports are not eligible to participate.
- ✓ Children who are 18 or under at the beginning of the school year are eligible to participate.

School sites that are not area eligible, operating under standard counting and claiming must use a child's free and reduced-price status to determine student eligibility for the afterschool snack.

Meal Requirements:

- ✓ SFA's must offer the meal components and quantities required in the Afterschool Snack meal pattern based on the age/grade group served.
- ✓ All reimbursable snacks must contain at least two meal components in the daily minimum quantity.
- ✓ Offer versus Serve is not a service option in the afterschool snack service.

Afterschool Snack Meal Pattern - Daily			
Must serve two of the five meal components in the minimum daily quantity. Only one of the components served daily can be a beverage			
Meal Component	Ages 1-2	Ages 2-5	K-12
Fruits (cups)	1/2	1/2	3/4
Vegetables (cups)	1/2	1/2	3/4
Grains (oz. equivalent)	1/2	1/2	1
Meat/Meat Alternate (oz. equivalent)	1/2	1/2	1
Fluid Milk (fluid oz)	4 oz	4 oz	8 oz

Meal Pattern Components:

Meat/Meat Alternate:

- ✓ The minimum meat/meat alternate amount that can contribute to the meal pattern is 0.25 oz equivalent.
- ✓ Effective July 1, 2025, yogurt may not contain more than 12 grams of added sugar per 6 ounces.

Grains:

- ✓ The minimum grain amount that can contribute to the meal pattern is a 0.25 oz equivalent.
- ✓ Grain-based desserts, as identified in [USDA's Food Buying Guide Exhibit A Grain Tool](#) do not credit towards the grain component.
- ✓ For grades K-12, at least 80% of grains served weekly must be whole grain-rich and all other grain items served must be enriched.
- ✓ For preschool children, at least one serving of grains per day across all meals and snacks must be whole grain-rich.
- ✓ Effective July 1, 2025, breakfast cereals cannot contain more than 6 grams of added sugar per dry ounce.

Fluid Milk:

- ✓ K-12: All milk must be fat-free or low-fat (1% or less). Milk can be flavored or unflavored.
- ✓ Effective July 1, 2025, flavored milk may not contain more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces.
- ✓ Ages 2-5: Milk must be unflavored low fat or fat free.
- ✓ Ages 1-2: Milk must be unflavored whole milk.

Vegetables:

- ✓ 100% full strength juice may be offered to meet up to half of the weekly vegetables served.
- ✓ 100% full-strength juice may only be offered to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one preschool meal or snack per day.
- ✓ The minimum vegetable amount that can contribute to the meal pattern is a 1/8 cup.
- ✓ Leafy green vegetables credit as one half the volume served.

Fruit:

- ✓ 100% full strength juice may be offered to meet up to half of the weekly fruit served for grades K-12
- ✓ 100% full-strength juice may only be offered to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one preschool meal or snack per day.
- ✓ The minimum quantity that may be credited towards the fruit component is 1/8 cup.

Area and Non-Area Eligible Sites:

A site is area eligible if it is located at a school or in the attendance area of a school where at least 50% of the enrolled children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Area eligible sites receive the free federal reimbursement rate for all snacks served.

Sites operating under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) will use the site Identified Eligible Student Percentage (ISP) x 1.6 to determine area eligibility. The minimum site ISP to be area eligible is 31.25% (31.25 x 1.6 = 50).

CEP schools that are not area eligible claim snacks using the same free and paid CEP claiming percentages used to claim meals.

School sites that are not area eligible, operating under standard counting and claiming must use a child’s free and reduced-price status to determine student eligibility for the afterschool snack service.

Helpful Resources

[USDA Afterschool Snack Service Webpage](#)

[ODE Afterschool Snack Service Webpage](#)

Regulatory Reference

[USDA Memo SP-19 2024](#) Initial Implementation Memorandum: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

[USDA Memo SP-05 2022](#) Meal Requirements Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators

[CFR 210.10 Meal Requirements for Lunch and Afterschool Snacks](#)

[USDA Community Eligibility Planning and Implementation Guide](#)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Acronym Reference and Definitions	
NSLP	National School Lunch Program
LEA	Local Education Agency
CEP	Community Eligibility Provision
SFA	School Food Authority
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture