

Noncreditable Foods in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Foods served in reimbursable meals and snacks must meet the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#). For more information on the SFSP meal patterns and crediting requirements, visit the “[Meal Patterns for the SFSP](#)” and “[Crediting Foods](#)” sections of the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) SFSP webpage.



Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that do not contribute toward the USDA’s meal patterns for Child Nutrition Programs. They include foods and beverages in amounts too small to credit (i.e., less than the minimum creditable amount) and foods and beverages that do not belong to the meal pattern components. Examples of noncreditable foods include potato chips, pudding, ice cream, gelatin, cream cheese, bacon, condiments (e.g., syrup, jam, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and butter), and water. The chart on page 2 lists additional examples of noncreditable foods in the SFSP meal patterns. This list is not all-inclusive.

SFSP funds cannot be used to purchase noncreditable foods, except for condiments served with creditable foods. For example, SFSP funds cannot be used to purchase gelatin, pudding, or canned cream soups. For more information, refer to [USDA Memo SP 06-2012: *Serving Additional Foods in the Summer Food Service Program*](#).

SFSP sponsors may serve noncreditable foods in addition to the meal components to add variety, help improve acceptability in the meal, and satisfy appetites. Some examples include maple syrup on pancakes, salad dressing on tossed greens, and condiments such as ketchup or mustard on sandwiches and other entrees.

To ensure that SFSP meals and snacks meet children’s nutritional needs, the CSDE encourages SFSP sponsors to use discretion when serving noncreditable foods. Noncreditable foods typically contain few nutrients and are higher in added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium. Menu planners should read labels, be aware of the ingredients in foods, and limit the frequency and amount of less nutritious choices.



Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns ¹

For additional guidance, refer to the footnotes on page 3.

| | |
|--|---|
| Almond flour | Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice) |
| Almond milk ² | Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, and twists |
| Bacon (pork) | Gelatin, regular and sugar free |
| Bacon bits, regular or imitation | Grain-based desserts at lunch and supper, e.g., cookies, granola bars, cake, and pastries |
| Banana chips | Grain products and recipes that are not WGR or enriched ³ |
| Bread products that are not grain-rich (WGR) or enriched ³ | Home-canned products, e.g., vegetables and fruits |
| Butter | Honey |
| Candy ³ | Hot chocolate |
| Candy-coated popcorn | Ice cream and ice cream novelties |
| Chili sauce | Ice milk |
| Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo | Iced coffee |
| Coconut flour | Iced tea |
| Coconut milk | Imitation cheese |
| Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, and iced) | Jam and jelly |
| Commercial processed products without a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS), e.g., entrees, smoothies, and breaded vegetables ⁴ | Ketchup |
| Commercial smoothies that contain dietary or herbal supplements | Lemonade |
| Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce | Limeade |
| Cranberry cocktail drink | Liquid egg substitutes |
| Cream, half and half | Maple syrup |
| Cream cheese | Margarine |
| Cream soups, canned, e.g., cream of mushroom, cream of celery, cream of broccoli | Marshmallows |
| Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning | Mayonnaise |
| Drinkable or squeezable yogurt and yogurt drinks ⁵ | Mustard |
| Eggnog | Nectar drinks |
| Egg whites without the yolk | Nondairy milk substitutes, e.g., almond milk, rice milk, cashew milk, oat milk ² |
| Frozen yogurt | Nutrition supplement beverages, e.g., Abbott's Pediasure |
| Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix | Oat milk ² |
| Fruit leathers | Pickle relish |
| | Popsicles (not 100 percent juice) |

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

| Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns ¹ , <i>continued</i> | |
|---|---|
| Potato chips | Soups, commercial non-vegetable, e.g., beef |
| Powdered milk beverages, e.g., Nestle’s NIDO | barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice |
| Probiotic dairy drinks | Sour cream |
| Pudding | Soy milk ² |
| Pudding pops | Sports drinks, regular and diet |
| Rice milk ² | Spreadable fruit |
| Salad dressings | Syrup |
| Salt pork | Tea (regular, herbal, and iced) |
| Scrapple | Tofu and tofu products |
| Sherbet | Water |
| Soda, regular and diet | Yogurt products, e.g., drinkable or |
| Soups, commercial cream of vegetable, e.g., cream of broccoli, cream of mushroom, and cream of celery | squeezeable yogurt, frozen yogurt, yogurt bars, and yogurt-covered fruits and nuts |

Footnotes

- ¹ For SFSP sites operating in schools, state laws prohibit selling and giving certain foods and beverages to children on school premises. Review all noncreditable foods to ensure compliance before selling to students. For more information, refer to the CSDE’s resource, [Overview of Connecticut Competitive Foods Regulations](#), and visit the CSDE’s [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpages.
- ² Nondairy milk substitutes credit only for children with a disability that restricts their diet, based on a medical statement from a recognized medial authority. For additional guidance, refer to the CSDE’s resource, [Requirements for the Milk Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns](#), and visit the “Meal Modifications for Special Diets” section of the CSDE’s SFSP webpage.
- ³ For guidance on creditable grains, refer to the CSDE’s resource, [Requirements for the Grains/Breads Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns](#).
- ⁴ Commercial processed products without a CN label or PFS cannot credit in SFSP meals and snacks. For more information, refer to the CSDE’s resources, [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Program](#), [Using Product Formulation Statements in the SFSP](#), and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the SFSP](#), and the USDA’s [Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer’s Product Formulation Statement](#). Additional guidance is available in the “Crediting Commercial Processed Products” section of the CSDE’s SFSP webpage. Training on the requirements for CN labels and PFS is available in Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation of the CSDE’s training program, [What’s in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#).
- ⁵ For guidance on crediting yogurt, refer to the CSDE’s resource, [Crediting Yogurt in the SFSP](#).

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Resources

Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Accepting_Processed_Product_Documentation_SFSP.pdf

Administrative Guidance for SFSP Sponsors (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/sfsp/SFSP_Admin_Guide_Sept2016.pdf

Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CN_Labeling_Program.pdf

Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Cereals_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Commercial Processed Products (“Documents/Forms” section of CSDE’s SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents#CreditingCommercialProcessedProducts>

Crediting Foods Made from Scratch Products (“Documents/Forms” section of CSDE’s SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents#CreditingFoodsScratch>

Crediting Deli Meats in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Deli_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Enriched Grains in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Enriched_Grains_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Foods in the SFSP (“Documents/Forms” section of CSDE’s SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents>

Crediting Juice in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Juice_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Legumes in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Legumes_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Legumes in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Legumes_SFSP.pdf

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Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Nuts_Seeds_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Smoothies in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Smoothies_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Summary Charts for the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Crediting_Summary_Charts_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Whole Grains in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Whole_Grains_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Yogurt in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Yogurt_SFSP.pdf

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Meal Patterns for the SFSP (CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program#MealPatterns>

Menu Planning for the SFSP (CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program#MenuPlanning>

Nutrition Guide: Summer Food Service Program (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/USDA_SFSP_NutritionGuide.pdf

Requirements for the Grains/Breads Component of the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_Grains_Breads_SFSP.pdf

Requirements for the Meat/Meat Alternates Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_MMA_SFSP.pdf

Requirements for the Milk Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_Milk_SFSP.pdf

Requirements for the Vegetables/Fruits Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_Vegetables_Fruits_SFSP.pdf

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement (USDA):

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/manufacturerPFStipsheet.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 06-2012: Serving Additional Foods in the Summer Food Service Program:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/serving-additional-foods-summer-food-service-program>

USDA Memo SP 08-2019, CACFP 02-2019 and SFSP 02-2019: Update of Food Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/update-food-crediting-child-nutrition-programs>

Using Product Formulation Statements in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Product_Formulation_Statements_SFSP.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Meal-Pattern-Training-Materials>

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For more information, visit the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#) and [Crediting Foods in the SFSP](#) sections of the CSDE's SFSP webpage, or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Noncreditable_Foods_SFSP.pdf.

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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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