

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 “[SFSP Meal Patterns](#)” and “[Meal Patterns](#)” and “[Crediting Foods](#)” sections of the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) SFSP webpage.



Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that cannot credit in the USDA’s meal patterns for Child Nutrition Programs. Examples 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 for the SFSP. This list is not all-inclusive.

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.

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



Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns

| | |
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| Almond milk ¹ | Gelatin, regular and sugar free |
| Bacon and bacon bits | Grains that are not whole or enriched |
| Banana chips | Honey |
| Bread products that are not whole or enriched ¹ | Hot chocolate |
| Butter | Ice cream |
| Candy ² | Ice cream novelties |
| Candy-coated popcorn ² | Ice milk |
| Chili sauce | Iced coffee ² |
| Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo ² | Iced tea ² |
| Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, and iced) ² | Imitation cheese |
| Commercial processed products without a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS), e.g., entrees, smoothies, and breaded vegetables ³ | Jam |
| Commercial smoothies that contain dietary or herbal supplements | Jelly |
| Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce | Ketchup |
| Cranberry cocktail drink ² | Lemonade ² |
| Cream, half and half | Limeade ² |
| Cream cheese | Maple syrup |
| Cream soups, canned, e.g., cream of mushroom, cream of celery, cream of broccoli | Margarine |
| Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning | Marshmallows |
| Drinkable or squeezable yogurt, probiotic dairy drinks, and yogurt drinks | Mayonnaise |
| Eggnog | Mustard |
| Egg whites | Nectar drinks ² |
| Frozen yogurt | Nondairy milk substitutes, e.g., almond milk, soy milk, and rice milk |
| Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix ⁴ | Pickle relish |
| Fruit leathers | Popsicles (not 100 percent juice) |
| Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice) ² | Potato chips |
| Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, and twists | Probiotic dairy drinks |
| | Pudding |
| | Pudding pops |
| | Rice milk |
| | Salad dressings |
| | Sherbet |
| | Soda, regular and diet ² |

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns, *continued*

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| <p>Soups, non-vegetable, canned, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice</p> <p>Sour cream</p> <p>Soy milk</p> <p>Soy yogurt</p> <p>Sports drinks ²</p> | <p>Spreadable fruit</p> <p>Syrup</p> <p>Tea (regular, herbal, and iced) ²</p> <p>Tofu and tofu products</p> <p>Water</p> <p>White rice, unenriched ¹</p> |
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¹ For guidance on creditable grains, see the CSDE’s handout, [Grains/Breads Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns](#).

² If the SFSP operates on school premises, Sections 10-215b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies prohibits selling and giving these competitive foods to students. For more information, see the CSDE’s handout, [Connecticut Competitive Foods Regulations](#), and visit the CSDE’s webpages, [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#).

³ Commercial processed products without a CN label or PFS cannot credit in SFSP meals and snacks. For more information, see the CSDE’s handouts, [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Program](#), [Product Formulation Statements](#) and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the SFSP](#); the USDA’s documents, [Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Grains/Breads Servings](#), and [Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer’s Product Formulation Statement](#); and visit the [Crediting Commercial Processed Products in the SFSP](#) section of the CSDE’s SFSP webpage.

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Resources

Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/AcceptDocumentationSFSP.pdf>

Administrative Guidance for SFSP Sponsors (USDA):

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

Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CNlabel.pdf>

Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/CreditCerealsSFSP.pdf>

Crediting Commercial Processed Products in the SFSP (Documents/Forms section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

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

Crediting Deli Meats in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/CreditDeliSFSP.pdf>

Crediting Enriched Grains in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/CreditEnrichedGrainsSFSP.pdf>

Crediting Foods in the SFSP (CSDE 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/CreditJuiceSFSP.pdf>

Crediting Smoothies in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/CreditSmoothiesSFSP.pdf>

Crediting Whole Grains in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/CreditWholeGrainsSFSP.pdf>

Crediting Yogurt in the SFSP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/CreditYogurtSFSP.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 webpage):

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

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Nutrition Guide: Summer Food Service Program (USDA):

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

Product Formulation Statements (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/PFS.pdf>

Requirements for the Grains/Breads Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentGrainsBreadsSFSP.pdf>

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

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentMMASFSP.pdf>

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

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentMilkSFSP.pdf>

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

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentVegetablesFruitsSFSP.pdf>

SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/MealPattern/SFSPMealPattern.pdf>

SFSP website (CSDE):

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

SFSP website (USDA):

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

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>

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For more information, visit the CSDE's [SFSP](#) website or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) in the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/MealPattern/NoncreditableFoodsSFSP.pdf>.

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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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