

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program

This information applies to the meal pattern for grades K-12 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). For information on the ASP meal pattern requirements and crediting foods for grades K-12, refer to the CSDE's [Afterschool Snack Program Handbook](#) and visit the CSDE's [Afterschool Snack Program](#) webpage.



Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that do not count toward the meal patterns for the USDA 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 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 grades K-12 in the ASP. This list is not all-inclusive.

School food authorities (SFAs) may serve noncreditable foods in addition to the meal components to add variety, help improve acceptability in the meal, and satisfy appetites. 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 ASP snacks meet children's nutritional needs, the CSDE encourages SFAs 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.

Some noncreditable foods (such as candy, soda, coffee, tea, and sports drinks) cannot be sold in the ASP due to federal or state requirements. For more information, visit the CSDE's [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) webpage and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpage.



Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the ASP meal pattern for grades K-12¹

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

Almond flour	Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, twists
Almond milk ²	Gelatin, regular and sugar free
Bacon (pork)	Grain products that are not whole grain, WGR, or enriched ³
Bacon bits, regular or imitation	Home-canned products, e.g., vegetables and fruits
Banana chips	Honey
Bread products that are not whole grain, whole grain-rich (WGR), or enriched ³	Hot chocolate
Breakfast cereals (ready-to-eat and cooked) that are not whole grain, WGR, enriched, or fortified ⁴	Ice cream and ice cream novelties
Butter	Ice milk
Candy	Iced coffee
Candy-coated popcorn	Iced tea
Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo	Imitation cheese
Coconut flour	Jam and jelly
Coconut milk	Lemonade
Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, iced)	Limeade
Commercial processed products without a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS), e.g., entrees, smoothies, and breaded vegetables ⁵	Liquid egg substitutes
Commercial smoothies that contain dietary or herbal supplements	Maple syrup
Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce	Margarine
Cranberry cocktail drink	Marshmallows
Cream, half and half	Mayonnaise
Cream cheese	Milk, reduced fat (2%) and whole
Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning	Mustard
Drinkable or squeezable yogurt and yogurt drinks ⁶	Nectar drinks
Eggnog	Nondairy milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²
Egg whites without the yolk	Nutrition supplement beverages, e.g., Abbott's Pediasure
Frozen yogurt	Oat milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²
Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix	Pickle relish
Fruit leathers (100 percent fruit)	Popsicles (not 100 percent juice)
Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice)	Potato chips
	Pudding

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the ASP meal pattern for grades K-12¹, *continued*

Powdered milk beverages, e.g., Nestle's NIDO	Soy milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²
Probiotic dairy drinks	Sports drinks, regular and diet
Pudding pops	Spreadable fruit
Rice milk ²	Syrup
Salad dressings	Tea, regular, herbal, iced
Salt pork	Tofu with less than 5 grams of protein in 2.2 ounces (weight) or ¼ cup (volume) ⁷
Scrapple	Water ⁸
Sherbet	Yogurt products, e.g., drinkable or squeezable yogurt, frozen yogurt, yogurt bars, and yogurt-covered fruits and nuts
Soda, regular and diet	
Soups, commercial cream of vegetable, e.g., cream of broccoli, cream of mushroom, and cream of celery	
Soups, commercial non-vegetable, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice	
Sour cream	

Footnotes

- ¹ Foods sold separately from reimbursable meals (a la carte) must meet the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) (which apply to public school districts that participate in the healthy food option of [Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\)](#)) or the USDA [Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards (which apply to public school districts that do not participate in the healthy food option of HFC, and to private schools and residential child care institutions). Beverages sold as part of and separately from reimbursable meals in public schools must comply with the state beverage requirements of [Section 10-221q](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) and the USDA [Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards. Some sales of foods and beverages are prohibited due to federal or state requirements. Review all noncreditable foods to ensure compliance before selling to students. For more information, visit the CSDE's webpages, [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpages.
- ² Milk substitutes for children without a disability must meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes. For more information, refer to the to the CSDE's resource, [Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs](#).
- ³ For guidance on identifying creditable grains, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Crediting Whole Grains in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#), [Crediting Enriched Grains in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#), and [Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#).
- ⁴ For guidance on creditable cereals, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#).

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- ⁵ Commercial products without a CN label or PFS do not credit in the ASP. For more information, refer to the CSDE’s resources, *Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs* and *Using Child Nutrition (CN) Labels in the School Nutrition Programs*, and *Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program*; 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 Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage. Training on the requirements for CN labels and PFS forms 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*.
- ⁶ For guidance on crediting yogurt, refer to the CSDE’s resource, *Crediting Yogurt for Grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program*.
- ⁷ For guidance on crediting tofu, refer to the CSDE’s resource, *Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program*.
- ⁸ SFAs must make drinking water available to children at no charge where meals are served during the meal service, including the ASP. However, SFAs cannot promote or offer water or any other beverage as an alternative selection to fluid milk throughout the food service area. For more information, refer to [USDA Memo SP 49-2016 and CACFP 18-2016: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) and [USDA Memo SP 19-2018: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs](#). Training on the water requirement is available in Module 14: Water Availability during Meal Service 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*.

Resources

Afterschool Snack Program (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Afterschool-Snack-Program>

Afterschool Snack Program Handbook (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASP_Handbook.pdf

Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/Meal_Pattern_ASP_grades_K-12.pdf

Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/SpecDiet/Milk_Substitutes_SNP.pdf

Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Connecticut-Nutrition-Standards>

Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (CSDE):

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

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Crediting Enriched Grains in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP (“Documents/Forms” section of the CSDE’s Afterschool Snack Program webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Afterschool-Snack-Program/Documents#CreditingFoodsGradesK12>

Crediting Whole Grains in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (CSDE):

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

Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

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

Healthy Food Certification (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification>

List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/List-of-Acceptable-Foods-and-Beverages>

Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/MealPattern/Resources_School_Meal_Patterns_grades_K-12.pdf

USDA Memo SP 19-2018: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Memos/OM2018/SP19-2018s.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 49-2016 and CACFP 18-2016: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources-making-potable-water-available-schools-and-child-care-facilities-0>

Using Child Nutrition (CN) Labels in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):

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

Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):

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

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For more information, refer to the CSDE's *Afterschool Snack Program Handbook* and visit the CSDE's *Afterschool Snack Program* webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs 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/ASP/Noncreditable_Foods_ASP_grades_K-12.pdf.

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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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