Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

This list includes resources and websites to assist school food authorities (SFAs) with meeting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) meal pattern and crediting requirements for grades K-12 and preschool in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP. The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP follows the NSLP, SBP, and ASP meal patterns.

For links to information on federal and state requirements and guidance, visit the CSDE's Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs webpage. Additional resource lists are available on the CSDE's Resources for Child Nutrition Programs webpage. For additional guidance, contact the CSDE's school nutrition programs staff.

Contents

Child Nutrition (CN) Labels 3
Co-mingled Meals or Afterschool Snacks 4
Comparison Charts 5
Crediting Guidance and Documentation 5
Dietary Specifications at Breakfast and Lunch for Grades K-12 8
Fruits Component 10
General Program Guidance 13
Grains Component 14
Meal Modifications for Special Diets 19
Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 23
Meal Patterns for Preschool 25
Meal Service for Grades K-12 27
Meal Service for Preschool 27
Meats/Meat Alternates Component 28
Menu Planning for Grades K-12 31
Menu Planning for Preschool 33
Milk Component 35
Offer versus Serve (OVS) for Grades K-12 37
Product Formulation Statements 39
Production Records for Grades K-12 40

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Production Records for Preschool.....41
Vegetables Component.....42
Water Availability for School Nutrition Programs 45

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Child Nutrition (CN) Labels

Accepting Product Documentation (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/accepting-product-documentation

Appendix C: The USDA Child Nutrition Labeling Program (USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Appendix_C.pdf

Authorized Manufacturers and Labels (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/usdausdc-authorized-labels-and-manufacturers

Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Manual (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/child-nutrition-labeling-manual.pdf

Child Nutrition Labels (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/child-nutrition-labels

CN Labeling Program (USDA webpage):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling-program

Food Buying Guide Module 3: Product Formulation Statements (PFS) (ICN):
https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/course/external/view/elearning/139/fbg-module-3-product-formulation-statements-pfs

Food Manufacturers/Industry (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry

Guide to Menu Documentation for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_menu_documentation_snp.pdf

Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement: Is it Acceptable? Presentation Slides (Institute of Child Nutrition and USDA):
https://theicn.org/resources/930/march-2016/109876/manufacturers-product-formulation-statement-pfs03-31-16.pdf

USDA Memo SP 05-2025, CACFP 04-2025, and SFSP 02-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling/guidance-accepting-processed-product-documentation

Using Child Nutrition (CN) Labels in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/cn_labels_snp.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 8: Meal Pattern Documentation for Crediting Commercial Processed Products (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module8

Co-mingled Meals or Afterschool Snacks

Co-mingled Meals and Afterschool Snacks ("Meal Service" section of CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/meal-service#Comingled

Co-mingled Meals and Afterschool Snacks (Section 4 of the CSDE's Guide to Meal Service Requirements for Preschoolers in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/guide_preschool_meal_service_snp.pdf

Meal Service (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/meal-service

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Module 2: Introduction to Preschool Meal Patterns (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training

Serving School Meals to Preschoolers (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-school-meals-preschoolers

USDA Memo SP 37-2017: Flexibility for Co-Mingled Preschool Meals: Questions and Answers"
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/flexibility-co-mingled-preschool-meals-questions-and-answers

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Comparison Charts

Comparison of Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern Requirements for Grades K-12 and Preschool (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/comparison_preschool_grades_k-12_asp.pdf

Comparison of Lunch and Breakfast Meal Pattern Requirements for Grades K-12 and Preschool in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/comparison_grades_k-12_preschool_nslp_sbp.pdf

Comparison of the Grains Component Requirements in the Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/comparison_grain_crediting_snp.pdf

Comparison of the Milk Component Requirements in the Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/comparison_milk_requirements_snp.pdf

Crediting Guidance and Documentation

Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/accepting_processed_product_documentation_snp.pdf

Accepting Product Documentation (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/accepting-product-documentation

Child Nutrition Labels (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/child-nutrition-labels

Commercial Processed Products (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs#Commercial

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs

Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs

Crediting Guide for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_crediting_snp.pdf

Crediting Summary Charts for the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/crediting_summary_charts_snp.pdf

Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cn/crediting-tipsheets

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs: Training Resources (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources

Foods Made from Scratch (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs#Scratch

Guide to Menu Documentation for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_menu_documentation_snp.pdf

Product Formulation Statements (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/product-formulation-statements

Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) for Standardized Recipes (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-interactive-web-based-tool

Records Retention Requirements for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/records_retention_snp.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Standardized Recipe Form for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/standardized_recipe_form_schools.docx

Standardized Recipes (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/standardized-recipes

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 05-2025, CACFP 04-2025, and SFSP 02-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling/guidance-accepting-processed-product-documentation

USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/cicn/usda-recipe-standardization-guide-for-school-nutrition-programs/

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

What's in a Meal Module 7: Meal Pattern Documentation for School Menus (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module7

What's in a Meal Module 8: Meal Pattern Documentation for Crediting Commercial Processed Products (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module8

When Commercial Grain Products Require a Product Formulation Statement to Credit in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/when_commercial_grain_products_require_pfs_snp.pdf

Yield Study Data Form for the Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/yield_study_form.pdf

Dietary Specifications at Breakfast and Lunch for Grades K-12

Added Sugars (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-nutrition-standards-updates/added-sugars

Calories ("Dietary Specifications" section of CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs/dietary-specifications#Calories

Chapter 3: Menu Development ("Checking for Dietary Specifications" in USDA's Menu Planner for School Meals):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/menu-planner

Defining Added Sugars and How to Find Them on a Nutrition Facts Label (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2EgjEu4-tk

Defining Added Sugars and How to Find Them on a Nutrition Facts Label (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2EgjEu4-tk

Dietary Specifications (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Program webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs/dietary-specifications

Get the Facts: Sources of Sodium in Your Diet (CDC):
https://www.cdc.gov/salt/pdfs/Sources-of-Sodium.pdf

Guide to the Dietary Specifications for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_dietary_specifications_nslp_sbp_k12.pdf

Identifying Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uob-DBBKlGk

Identifying Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps *(USDA webinar):*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uob-DBBKlGk

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Lowering Sodium in School Foods (American Heart Association):
https://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart- public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm_472940.pdf

Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/sbp/reducing-added-sugars

Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast: Menu Planning Tips (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVEnHQSGicI

Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast: Menu Planning Tips (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVEnHQSGicI

Reducing Added Sugars in Recipes (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T25NQwTzZIo

Reducing Added Sugars in Recipes (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T25NQwTzZIo

Reducing Sodium in the Diets of American Children (AHA):
http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart- public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm_433027.pdf

Reducing Sodium, Boosting Health for our Nation's Schoolchildren (USDA):
https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/blog/reducing-sodium-boosting-health-our-nations-schoolchildren

Shaking it Up initiative (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/icn-resources-a-z/shaking-it-up/

Sodium and Children (CDC):
https://www.cdc.gov/salt/sodium_and_children.htm

Sodium Limits for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for School Meals for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/sodium_limits_nslp_sbp.pdf

USDA Final Rule (83 FR 63775): Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements:
https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-12-12/pdf/2018-26762.pdf

Using Nutrient Analysis Software for Added Sugars (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQPeJQvkUBA

Using Nutrient Analysis Software for Added Sugars (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQPeJQvkUBA

Weekly Calorie Ranges for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/calorie_ranges_nslp_sbp.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 6: Dietary Specifications (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module6

What's Shaking: Creative Ways to Boost Flavor with Less Sodium (USDA):
https://theicn.org/cnss/about-whats-shaking/

Fruits Component

Crediting Fruits in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet (USDA):
http://https//www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-fruits-child-nutrition-programs-tip-sheet

Crediting Juices in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_juices_snp.pdf

Crediting Smoothies in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_smoothies_snp.pdf

Crediting Vegetable Noodles and Coconut in the Child Nutrition Programs (USDA webinar):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-vegetable-noodles-and-coconut-child-nutrition-programs

CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 07-19: Compliance Issues with the Vegetables and Fruits Components for Grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/memos/om2019/om07-19.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 3: Overview of Crediting Requirements for the Fruits Component (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Section3_Fruits.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Food Buying Guide Section 3: Yield Table for Fruits (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/files/Reports/USDA_FBG_Section3_FruitsYieldTable.pdf

Fruits Component (CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/fruits

Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offering-smoothies-part-reimbursable-school-meals

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs, Module 7: Fruits Component (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training#module7

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Veg_Subgroups_Fruits_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs: Completed Sample for Fruits (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFSsamplefruits.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and NSLP Afterschool Snacks (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Total_Veg_Fruits_Fillable_508.pdf

Smoothies (New England Dairy):
https://www.newenglanddairy.com/smoothies/

Start with Half a Cup: Fresh Fruit Portioning Guide for Schools (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning/portion-control#StartHalfCup

Tools for Schools: Offering Fruits and Vegetables (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/tools-schools-offering-fruits-and-vegetables

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo SP 02-2025: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit Flexibility in the School Breakfast Program: Q&As for Program Operators:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/vegetables-fruit-flexibility-qas

USDA Memo SP 34-2019, CACFP 15-2019, and SFSP 15-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-coconut-hominy-corn-masa-and-masa-harina-child-nutrition-programs

USDA Memo SP 40-2019, CACFP 17-2019, and SFSP 17-2019: Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/smoothies-offered-child-nutrition-programs

What's in a Meal Module 11: Fruits Component (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module11

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

General Program Guidance

Afterschool Snack Program (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/afterschool-snack-program

Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/child-nutrition-programs

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Documents & Resources (USDA webpage):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources

Forms for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/forms-for-school-nutrition-programs

Legislation and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/laws-and-regulations-for-child-nutrition-programs

Manuals and Guides for Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/manuals-and-guides-for-child-nutrition-programs

National School Lunch Program (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/national-school-lunch-program

Nutrition Education (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/nutrition-education

Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/lists/operational-memoranda-for-school-nutrition-programs

Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/program-guidance-school-nutrition-programs

Resources for Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/resources-for-child-nutrition-programs

School Breakfast Program (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/school-breakfast-program

School Lunch Tray and Table Talk (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/school-lunch-tray-and-table-talk

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/school-nutrition-programs

Training for Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/training-for-child-nutrition-programs

Grains Component

Adding Whole Grains to Your CACFP Menu (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/adding-whole-grains-your-cacfp-menu

CACFP Grains Ounce Equivalents Resources (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grains-ounce-equivalents-resources-cacfp

Calculating the Added Sugars Limit for Breakfast Cereals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/calculating-sugar-limits-breakfast-cereals

Calculating the Weekly Percentage of Whole Grain-rich Menu Items in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/calculate_wgr_percentage_snp.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/grain_calculation_snp.pdf

Choose Breakfast Cereals That Are Lower in Added Sugars in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/breakfast-cereals-lower-sugar

Choosing Breakfast Cereals That Are Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkmIwmJiVYY

Choosing Breakfast Cereals That Are Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkmIwmJiVYY

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Comparison of the Grains Component Requirements in the Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/comparison_grain_requirements_snp.pdf

Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_cereals_snp.pdf

Crediting Enriched Grains in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_enriched_grains_snp.pdf

Crediting Grain-based Desserts in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_grain_based_desserts_grades_k-12_nslp_sbp.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Crediting Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheets: Part 1: Creditable Grains in Child Nutrition Programs; Part 2: Identifying Grain Products that are Whole Grain-Rich; and Part 3: Program Requirements (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-grains

Crediting Single-Serving Packages of Grains in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-single-serving-packages-grains-cacfp

Crediting Whole Grains in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_whole_grains_snp.pdf

Exhibit A Grains Tool of the Food Buying Guide (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/ExhibitATool/Index

Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/ExhibitA.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 4: Overview of Crediting Requirements for the Grains Component (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Section4_Grains.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 4: Yield Table for Grains (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/files/Reports/USDA_FBG_Section4_GrainsYieldTable.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/grain_oz_eq_snp.pdf

Grain-based Desserts in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grain-based-desserts-cacfp

Grains Component (CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/grains

Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/crediting/wgr_requirement_cacfp.pdf
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/guide_wgr_requirement_snp_grades_k-12.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

How to Identify Creditable Grains for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/identify_creditable_grains_snp_preschool.pdf
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

How to Spot Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/how-spot-whole-grain-rich-foods-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/how_to_use_ounce_equivalents_chart_snp.pdf

Identifying Whole Grain-rich Foods for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/identifying-whole-grain-rich-foods-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Instructions for the Worksheet to Calculate the Weekly Percentage of Whole Grain-rich Menu Items in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/worksheet_calculate_wgr_percentage_snp_grades_k-12_instructions.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Is My Recipe Whole Grain-Rich in the Child and Adult Care Food Program? (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/my-recipe-whole-grain-rich-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Nutrition Standards for Added Sugars: Breakfast Cereals Fact Sheet (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/resources/2582/sugar-reduction-for-schools-fact-sheets/127722/nutrition-standards-for-added-sugars-breakfast-cereals-fact-sheet.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Module 7: Grains Component (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Grains in Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Grains_Oz_Eq_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Grains in Child Nutrition Programs – Completed Sample (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Example_Grains_Oz_Eq.pdf

Product Formulation Statements (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/product-formulation-statements

Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) for Standardized Recipes (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-interactive-web-based-tool

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Serving Requirements ("Grains" section of CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/grains#ServingRequirements

USDA Memo CACFP 05-2025: Grain Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/grain-requirements-qas
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

USDA Memo CACFP 16-2017: Grain-Based Desserts in the Child and Adult Care Food Program:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/grain-based-desserts-child-and-adult-care-food-program
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

USDA Memo SP 23-2019, CACFP 10-2019, and SFSP 09-2019: Crediting Popcorn in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-popcorn-child-nutrition-programs

USDA Memo SP 34-2019, CACFP 15-2019, and SFSP 15-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-coconut-hominy-corn-masa-and-masa-harina-child-nutrition-programs

Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/using-ounce-equivalents-grains-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Using the WIC Food Lists to Identify Grains for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/using-wic-food-lists-identify-grains-cacfp

Webinar: How to Maximize the Exhibit A Grains Tool (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/how-maximize-exhibit-grains-tool

What's in a Meal Module 13: Grains Component (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module13

What's in a Meal Module 14: Whole Grain-rich Requirement (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module14

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

What's in a Meal Module 15: Grains Ounce Equivalents (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs): https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module15

When Commercial Grain Products Require a Product Formulation Statement to Credit in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/when_commercial_grain_products_require_pfs_snp.pdf

Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (USDA): https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/whole-grain-resource-national-school-lunch-and-school-breakfast-programs-0
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Whole Grain-rich Requirement ("Grains" section of CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage): https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/grains#WGR

Worksheet to Calculate the Weekly Percentage of Whole Grain-rich Menu Items in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/worksheet_calculate_wgr_percentage_snp_grades_k-12.xlxs
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Meal Modifications for Special Diets

Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meal Programs: Guidance for School Food Service Professionals (USDA): https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/2017-edition-accommodating-children-disabilities-school-meal-programs

Allowable Fluid Milk Substitutes for Non-disability Reasons in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/milk_substitutes_snp.pdf

Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-212c: Life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease: Guidelines; district plans: https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_169.htm#sec_10-212c

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

CSDE Operational Memo No. 13-17: Requirements for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/memos/om2017/om13-17.pdf

FNS Instruction 783-13, Revision 3: Variations in Meal Requirements for Religious Reasons: Jewish Schools, Institutions and Sponsors (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/variations-in-meal-requirements-for-religious-reasons

Food Allergies (CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs/food-allergies

Guidance for Special Diets (CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs/guidance-for-special-diets

Guide to Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/guide_meal_modifications_snp.pdf

Guidelines for Feeding and Swallowing Programs in Schools (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/special-education/feeding_and_swallowing.pdf

Guidelines for Managing Life-threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/publications/managing-life-threatening-food-allergies-in-connecticut-schools

Identifying Products that Meet the USDA's Nutrition Standards for Fluid Milk Substitutes in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/identify_allowable_nondairy_milk_substitutes_snp.pdf

Instructions for the Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/medical_statement_snp_instructions.pdf

Instructions for the Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (Spanish): Instrucciones: Declaración médica para la modificación de alimentos en los programas de nutrición escolar (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/medical_statement_snp_instructions_spanish.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/medical_statement_snp.docx

Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (Spanish): Declaración médica para la modificación de alimentos en los programas de nutrición escolar (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/medical_statement_snp_spanish.docx

Medical Statements (CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs/medical-statements

Milk Substitutes (CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs/milk-substitutes

NSLP regulations 7 CFR 210.10(d)(2): Fluid milk substitutes for non-disability reasons (USDA):
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-210#p-210.10(d)(2)

NSLP regulations 7 CFR 210.10(m)(1): Modifications for disability reasons (USDA):
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-210#p-210.10(m)(1)

NSLP regulations 7 CFR 210.10(m)(2): Variations for non-disability reason (USDA):
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-210#p-210.10(m)(2)

Overview of the Requirements for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/overview_meal_modifications_snp.pdf

Requirements for Procedural Safeguards for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/procedural_safeguards_snp.pdf

Resource List for Special Diets in Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/resources/resources_special_diets.pdf

Resources for Special Diets in Child Nutrition Programs ("Documents/Forms" section of CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs/documents

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Sample Action Plan: Developing District Policy for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/action_policy_meal_modifications_snp.pdf

Sample Action Plan: Promoting District Policy for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/action_promote_meal_modifications_snp.pdf

Sample Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/sample_sop_meal_modifications_snp.docx

SBP regulations 7 CFR 220.8(m): Modifications and variations in reimbursable meals:
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-220#p-220.8(m)

Self-assessment of Local Practices for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/assessment_meal_modifications_snp.pdf

Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs

Summary Charts of the Requirements for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/summary_chart_meal_modifications_snp.pdf

USDA Memo SP 26-2017: Accommodating Disabilities in the School Meal Programs: Guidance and Questions and Answers (Q&As):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/accommodating-disabilities-school-meal-programs-guidance-qas

USDA Memo SP 59-2016: Policy Memorandum on Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in the School Meal Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/policy-memorandum-modifications-accommodate-disabilities-school-meal-programs

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Meal Patterns for Grades K-12

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

Dietary Specifications (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs/dietary-specificationsprograms/documents#DietarySpecifications

Guide to the Dietary Specifications for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_dietary_specifications_nslp_sbp_k12.pdf

Guide to the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_meal_patterns_nslp_sbp_k12.pdf

Meal Pattern Exemption for RCCIs with Multiple Age Groups (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs/meal-pattern-exemption-for-rccis

Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials

Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs

Menu Planner for School Meals (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/menu-planner

Noncreditable Foods in the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/noncreditable_foods_snp.pdf

Nutrition Standards for School Meals (USDA webpage):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nutrition-standards-school-meals

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Sodium Limits for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for School Meals for Grades K-12 (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/sodium_limits_nslp_sbp.pdf

Summary of Final Rule Updates to the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/summary_final_rule_snp_meal_patterns.pdf

Updates to the School Nutrition Standards (USDA webpage): https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-nutrition-standards-updates

Upcoming Meal Pattern Changes (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs webpage): https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs#Upcoming_Meal_Pattern_Changes

USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (89 FR 31962): https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/25/2024-08098/child-nutrition-programs-meal-patterns-consistent-with-the-2020-2025-dietary-guidelines-for

USDA Final Rule: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (Final Rule 77 FR 4087): https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-012612

USDA Final Rule: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium (87 FR 6984): https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/07/2022-02327/child-nutrition-programs-transitional-standards-for-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium

USDA Memo SP 05-2022: Meal Requirements Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators Updated to Support the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/sp052022-questions-answers-program-operators

USDA Memo SP 38-2019: Meal Requirements under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Q&As for Program Operators: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/meal-requirements-under-national-school-lunch-program-and-school-breakfast-program

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Weekly Calorie Ranges for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/calorie_ranges_nslp_sbp.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 2: Introduction to School Meal Patterns (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module2

What's in a Meal Module 3: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module3

What's in a Meal Module 4: School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module4

What's in a Meal Module 5: Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module5

Meal Patterns for Preschool

CACFP Meal Pattern Posters (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-posters-cacfp

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slides (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-training-slides-cacfp

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Tools (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp-training-tools

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Worksheets (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp-meal-pattern-training-worksheets

Guide to the Preschool Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/guide_preschool_meal_patterns.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs

Menu Forms and Production Records (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/menu-forms-and-production-records

Noncreditable Foods in the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/noncreditable_foods_snp_grades_k-12.pdf

Nutrition Standards for CACFP Meals and Snacks (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training

Updates to the School Nutrition Standards (USDA webpage):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-nutrition-standards-updates

USDA Final Rule: CACFP Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (81 FR 24347):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/fr-042516

USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (89 FR 31962):
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/25/2024-08098/child-nutrition-programs-meal-patterns-consistent-with-the-2020-2025-dietary-guidelines-for

USDA Memo CACFP 15-2016: Optional Best Practices to Further Improve Nutrition in the CACFP:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/optional-best-practices-further-improve-nutrition-cacfp

USDA Final Rule Correction: CACFP Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the HHFKA of 2010 (81 FR 75671):
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/11/01/2016-26339/child-and-adult-care-food-program-meal-pattern-revisions-related-to-the-healthy-hunger-free-kids-act

USDA Memo CACFP 08-2017: Questions and Answers on the Updated Meal Pattern Requirements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/questions-and-answers-updated-meal-pattern-requirements-child-and-adult-care-food-program

Meal Service for Grades K-12

Guide to Meal Service Requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_meal_service_nslp_sbp_k12.pdf

Offer versus Serve for School Nutrition Programs: Refer to "Offer versus Serve (OVS)" in this document

Meal Service for Preschool

Family Style Dining Guide: A Mealtime Approach for Early Care and Education Programs (Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association and The Nemours Foundation): https://occrra.org/wp-content/occrra/spec/spec-fsd.pdf

Guide to Meal Service Requirements for Preschoolers in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/guide_preschool_meal_service_snp.pdf

Meal Service for Preschoolers (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage): https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/meal-service

Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP (USDA): https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/mealtimes-toddlers-cacfp

Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP (USDA): https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/mealtimes-toddlers-family-handout

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Module 8: Meal Service for Preschoolers (CSDE): https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training

Support Family Style Meals (Supplement E from Nutrition and Wellness Tips for Young Children: Provider Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program) (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/tn/Supplement_E.PDF

The Basic Guide to Family Style Dining – Part 1 (ICN):
https://theicn.org/resources/382/2013-mealtime-memos/106229/august-2013-the-basic-guide-to-family-style-dining-part-1.pdf

Meats/Meat Alternates Component

Additional Meat/Meat Alternate Options for CNPs: Crediting Tempeh and Surimi (USDA webinar:):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/additional-meat-meat-alternate-tempeh-and-surimi

Calculating the Added Sugars Limit for Yogurt in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/calculating-sugar-limits-yogurt

Choose Yogurt That Is Lower in Added Sugars in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/choose-yogurts-lower-sugar

Choosing Yogurt That Is Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjV7XBRReFU

Choosing Yogurt That Is Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjV7XBRReFU

Crediting Beans, Peas, and Lentils in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_beans_peas_lentils_snp.pdf

Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_commercial_mma_snp.pdf.

Crediting Deli Meats in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_deli_snp.pdf

Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/mma_tipsheet.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_nuts_seeds_snp.pdf

Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_tofu_snp.pdf

Crediting Yogurt in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_yogurt_snp.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 1: Overview of Crediting Requirements for the Meats/Meat Alternates Component (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Section1_MeatsAndMeatAlternates.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 1: Yield Table for Meats/Meat Alternates (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/files/Reports/USDA_FBG_Section1_MeatsAndMeatAlternatesYieldTable.pdf

Meats and Meat Alternates Component (CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/meats-and-meat-alternates

Moving Forward: Update on Food Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs with Guidance for Dried Meat Products (USDA webinar):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/moving-forward-update-food-crediting-dried-meat-products

Moving Forward: Update on Food Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs with Guidance for Dried Meat Products (USDA webinar:):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/moving-forward-update-food-crediting-dried-meat-product

Nutrition Standards for Added Sugars: Yogurt Fact Sheet (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/resources/2582/sugar-reduction-for-schools-fact-sheets/127720/nutrition-standards-for-added-sugars-overview-fact-sheet.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offering-meats-and-meat-alternates-school-breakfast
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Module 5: Meats/Meat Alternates Component (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Meats/Meat Alternates (M/MA) in Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Meats-Meat_Alternates_Fillable_508.pdf

Questions and Answers on Alternate Protein Products (APP) (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/questions-and-answers-alternate-protein-products-app

Requirements for Alternate Protein Products in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/app_requirements_snp.pdf

School Lunch Menu Flexibilities: Beans, Peas, and Lentils (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJGC9zvx9Zk

Serving Meat and Meat Alternates at Breakfast in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-meats-and-meat-alternates-breakfast-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Serving Meats and Meat Alternates at Lunch and Supper in the USDA CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-meats-meat-alternates-lunch-supper-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, and SFSP 02-2024: Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meal Programs, CACFP, and SFSP:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-tofu-and-soy-yogurt-products-school-meal-programs-and-cacfp

USDA Memo SP 21-2019, CACFP 08-2019, and SFSP 07-2019: Crediting Shelf-Stable, Dried and Semi-Dried Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Products in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-shelf-stable-dried-and-semi-dried-meat-poultry-and-seafood-products-child-nutrition

USDA Memo SP 24-2019, CACFP 11-2019, and SFSP 10-2019: Crediting Surimi Seafood in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-surimi-seafood-child-nutrition-programs

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo SP 25-2019, CACFP 12-2019, and SFSP 11-2019: Crediting Tempeh in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-tempeh-child-nutrition-programs

USDA Memo SP 26-2019, CACFP 13-2019, and SFSP 12-2019: Crediting Pasta Products Made of Vegetable Flour in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-pasta-products-made-vegetable-flour-child-nutrition-programs

USDA Memo SP 53-2016 and CACFP 21-2016: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meal Programs and the CACFP:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/crediting-tofu-and-soy-yogurt-products-school-meal-programs-and-cacfp

What's in a Meal Module 10: Meats/Meat Alternates Component (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module10

Yogurt and Soy Yogurt ("Meats and Meat Alternates" section of CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/meats-and-meat-alternates#Yogurt

Menu Planning for Grades K-12

Afterschool Snack Program Menu Form for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/forms/menu_form_asp_grades_k-12.docx

Afterschool Snack Program Sample Menu for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/sample_menu_asp_grades_k-12.pdf

Basics at a Glance Portion Control Poster (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/icn-resources-a-z/basics-at-a-glance/

Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12 (CSDE's Forms for School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/forms-for-school-nutrition-programs#m

Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Menu Planning for Shorter or Longer Weeks (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/weekly_adjustments_nslp_sbp.pdf

Menu Planning for the Afterschool Snack Program (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/afterschool-snack-program/menu-planning

Menu Planning Guidance for School Meals for Grades K-12 (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning-guidance-for-school-meals

Noncreditable Foods in the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/noncreditable_foods_snp.pdf

Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/overview_menu_planning_nslp_grades_k-12.pdf

Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the School Breakfast Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sbp/overview_menu_planning_sbp_grades_k-12.pdf

Portion Control (CSDE's Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning/portion-control

Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast: Menu Planning Tips (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVEnHQSGicI

Resource List for Menu Planning and Food Production in Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/resources/resources_menu_planning.pdf

Sample Afterschool Snack Program Menu for Grades K-12 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/sample_menu_asp_grades_k-12.pdf

The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/schoolmeals/training/menu-planning

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Menu Planning for Preschool

ASP Preschool Menu Form (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/forms/menu_form_asp_preschool.docx

Basics at a Glance Portion Control Poster (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/icn-resources-a-z/basics-at-a-glance/

Choking Prevention (CSDE's Food Safety for Child Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/food-safety-for-child-nutrition-programs/documents#ChokingPrevention

Five-day Preschool Breakfast Menu Planning Form for Ages 1-2 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_breakfast_5day_ages_1-2.docx

Five-day Preschool Breakfast Menu Planning Form for Ages 3-5 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_breakfast_5day_ages_3-5.docx

Five-day Preschool Lunch Planning Form for Ages 1-2 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_lunch_5day_ages_1-2.docx

Five-day Preschool Lunch Planning Form for Ages 3-5 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_lunch_5day_ages3-5.docx

Menu Forms and Production Records (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/menu-forms-and-production-records

Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning

Menu Planning (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs#MenuPlanningPreschoolers

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Methods for Healthy Cooking (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/methods-healthy-cooking

Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/reducing-risk-choking-young-children-mealtimes

Resource List for Menu Planning and Food Production in Child Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/resources/resources_menu_planning.pdf

Sample Afterschool Snack Program Preschool Menu for Ages 3-5 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/sample_menu_asp_ages_3-5.pdf

Sample CACFP Menus ("Menu Planning" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for CACFP Child Care Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-cacfp-child-care-programs/menu-planning#SampleCACFPMenus

Serving Snacks in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-snacks-cacfp

Seven-day Breakfast Menu Planning Form for Ages 1-2 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_breakfast_7day_ages_1-2.docx

Seven-day Breakfast Menu Planning Form for Ages 3-5 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_breakfast_7day_ages_3-5.docx

Seven-day Lunch Planning Form for Ages 3-5 (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/preschool/forms/menu_form_lunch_7day_ages_3-5.docx

Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/using-nutrition-facts-label-cacfp

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Milk Component

Allowable Fluid Milk Substitutes for Non-Disability Reasons in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/milk_substitutes_snp.pdf

Choosing Flavored Milk That Is Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICvARHgtC-g

Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Milk Component in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/comparison_milk_requirements_snp.pdf

Crediting Fluid Milk in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet (USDA)
http://https//www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-milk-child-nutrition-programs-tip-sheet

CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 06-19: Summary of Federal and State Milk Requirements for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP, and Special Milk Program (SMP)::
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/memos/om2019/om07-19.pdf

FNS Instruction 783-7 Rev. 1: Milk Requirement Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/Milk%20Requirement%20Child%20Nutrition%20Programs.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 5: Overview of Crediting Requirements for the Milk Component (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Section5_Milk.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 5: Yield Table for Milk (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/files/Reports/USDA_FBG_Section5_MilkYieldTable.pdf

Identifying Products that Meet the USDA's Nutrition Standards for Fluid Milk Substitutes in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/identify_allowable_nondairy_milk_substitutes_snp.pdf

Milk Component (CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/milk

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Milk Substitutes (CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs/milk-substitutes

Nutrition Standards for Added Sugars: Flavored Milk Fact Sheet (Institute of Child Nutrition):
https://theicn.org/resources/2582/sugar-reduction-for-schools-fact-sheets/127719/nutrition-standards-for-added-sugars-flavored-milk-fact-sheet.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Module 4: Milk Component (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training#module4

Serving Milk in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/serving-milk
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

USDA Final Rule: Fluid Milk Substitutions in the School Nutrition Programs (73 FR 52903):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/fr-091208

USDA Memo SP 01-2025: Fluid Milk Requirements for School Meals:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fluid-milk-requirements-schools

USDA Memo SP 02-2009: Final Fluid Milk Substitution Rule:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/final-fluid-milk-substitution-rule

USDA Memo SP 07-2010, CACFP 04-2010, and SFSP 05-2010: Questions and Answers: Fluid Milk Substitutions*:*
https://www.fns.usda.gov/qas-milk-substitution-children-medical-or-special-dietary-needs-non-disability

USDA Memo SP 39-2019: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Program:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/clarification-milk-and-water-requirements-school-meal-program

What's in a Meal Module 9: Milk Component (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs
K-12):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module9

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Offer versus Serve (OVS) for Grades K-12

Lunch Meal Pattern Components Poster (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition//-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/ovs/lunchpostercomp.pdf

Lunch Offer versus Serve Poster (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition//-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/ovs/lunchposterovs.pdf

Offer versus Serve for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/offer-versus-serve-for-school-nutrition-programs

Offer versus Serve Guide for School Meals (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition//-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/ovs/ovs_guide_snp.pdf

Offer versus Serve Lunch Poster for Elementary Schools (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/OVS_ElemPoster.pdf

Offer versus Serve Lunch Poster for High Schools (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/OVS_HS-Poster.pdf

Offer versus Serve Lunch Poster for Middle Schools (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/OVS_MiddlePoster.pdf

Offer versus Serve NSLP Posters (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offer-versus-serve-national-school-lunch-program-posters

Offer versus Serve Posters for Breakfast and Lunch (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/nslp/offer-versus-serve-posters

Offer versus Serve Tip Sheet for School Food Service Managers: National School Lunch Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offer-vs-serve-lunch-program-tip-sheet

Offer versus Serve Tip Sheet for School Food Service Managers: School Breakfast Program (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offer-vs-serve-breakfast-program-tip-sheet

Overview of Offer versus Serve in the National School Lunch Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/ovs/overview_ovs_nslp.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Overview of Offer versus Serve in the School Breakfast Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/ovs/overview_ovs_sbp.pdf

Signage Requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/ovs/signage_requirements_nslp_sbp.pdf

USDA Memo SP 14-2025: Offer versus Serve Flexibilities for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/schoolmeals/offer-vs-serve-flexibilities

USDA Memo SP 35-2011 and CACFP 23-2011: Clarification on the Use of Offer versus Serve and Family Style Meal Service:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/clarification-use-offer-vs-serve-and-family-style-meal-service

USDA Memo SP 41-2015: Updated Offer vs Serve Guidance for the NSLP and SBP Beginning SY 2015-16:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/updated-offer-vs-serve-guidance-nslp-and-sbp-beginning-sy2015-16

USDA Regulations for the NSLP: Offer versus serve for grades K through 12 (7 CFR 210.10(e)):
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-210#p-210.10(e)

USDA Regulations for the SBP: Offer versus serve for grades K through 12 (7 CFR 220.8(e)):
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-220#p-220.8(e)

What's in a Meal Module 17: Offer versus Serve (OVS) in the National School Lunch Program (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module17

What's in a Meal Module 18: Offer versus Serve (OVS) in the School Breakfast Program (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module18

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Product Formulation Statements

Food Buying Guide Module 3: Product Formulation Statements (PFS) (ICN):
https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/course/external/view/elearning/139/fbg-module-3-product-formulation-statements-pfs

Guide to Menu Documentation for the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/mpg/guide_menu_documentation_snp.pdf

Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement: Is it Acceptable? (ICN and USDA):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtUo70IP9cc

Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement: Is it Acceptable? Presentation Slides (ICN and USDA):
https://theicn.org/resources/930/march-2016/109876/manufacturers-product-formulation-statement-pfs03-31-16.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Grains in Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Grains_Oz_Eq_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Grains in Child Nutrition Programs: Completed Sample (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Example_Grains_Oz_Eq.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Meats/Meat Alternates (M/MA) in Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Meats-Meat_Alternates_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Veg_Subgroups_Fruits_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs: Completed Sample for Vegetables (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFSsamplevegetables.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs: Completed Sample for Fruits (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFSsamplefruits.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and NSLP Afterschool Snacks (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Total_Veg_Fruits_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statements (CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs/product-formulation-statements

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 05-2025, CACFP 04-2025, and SFSP 02-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling/guidance-accepting-processed-product-documentation

Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/product_formulation_statements.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 8: Meal Pattern Documentation for Crediting Commercial Processed Products (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module8

Production Records for Grades K-12

Instructions for the Production Record Templates for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/forms/prodrecord/instructions_production_record_nslp_sbp.pdf

Production Records for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/production-records-for-school-nutrition-programs

Requirements for Production Records in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/forms/prodrecord/requirements_production_records_nslp_sbp.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 7: Meal Pattern Documentation for School Menus (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module7

Production Records for Preschool

Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Preschool Production Record (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/forms/production_record_asp_preschool.docx

Instructions for the Production Record Templates for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/forms/prodrecord/instructions_production_record_nslp_sbp.pdf

Menu Forms and Production Records (CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/menu-forms-and-production-records

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Preschool Production Record (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/forms/prodrecord/production_record_nslp_preschool.docx

Production Records for Preschoolers ("Menu Forms and Production Records" section of CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/documents#ProductionRecordsPreschoolers

Requirements for Production Records in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/forms/prodrecord/requirements_production_records_nslp_sbp.pdf

Sample Completed ASP Preschool Production Record (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/forms/production_record_asp_preschool_sample.pdf

School Breakfast Program (SBP) Preschool Production Record (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/forms/prodrecord/production_record_sbp_preschool.docx

Vegetables Component

Beans (ICN and USDA):
https://theicn.org/cnss/menu-planning/beans/

Crediting Beans, Peas, and Lentils in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_beans_peas_lentils_snp.pdf

Crediting Juices in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_juices_snp.pdf

Crediting Smoothies in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_smoothies_snp.pdf

Crediting Soups in the School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_soups_snp.pdf

Crediting Vegetable Noodles and Coconut in the Child Nutrition Programs (USDA webinar):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-vegetable-noodles-and-coconut-child-nutrition-programs

CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 07-19: Compliance Issues with the Vegetables and Fruits Components for Grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/memos/om2019/om07-19.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 2: Overview of Crediting Requirements for the Vegetables Component (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Section2_Vegetables.pdf

Food Buying Guide Section 2: Yield Table for Vegetables (USDA):
https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/files/Reports/USDA_FBG_Section2_VegetablesYieldTable.pdf

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Module 6: Vegetables Component (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-preschoolers-in-school-nutrition-programs/preschool-meal-pattern-training#module6

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs (USDA):
https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Veg_Subgroups_Fruits_Fillable_508.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in School Meal Programs: Completed Sample for Vegetables (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFSsamplevegetables.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Documenting Vegetables and Fruits in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and NSLP Afterschool Snacks (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Total_Veg_Fruits_Fillable_508.pdf

School Lunch Menu Flexibilities: Beans, Peas, and Lentils (USDA webinar):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJGC9zvx9Zk

Serving Vegetables in the CACFP (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-vegetables-cacfp
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Start with Half a Cup: Fresh Vegetables Portioning Guide for Schools (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning/portion-control#StartHalfCup

USDA Memo CACFP 09-2017: Vegetable and Fruit Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/vegetable-fruit-requirements-qas

USDA Memo SP 02-2025: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit Flexibility in the School Breakfast Program: Q&As for Program Operators:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/vegetables-fruit-flexibility-qas
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo SP 26-2019, CACFP 13-2019, and SFSP 12-2019: Crediting Pasta Products Made of Vegetable Flour in the Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-pasta-products-made-vegetable-flour-child-nutrition-programs

USDA Memo SP 40-2019, CACFP 17-2019, and SFSP 17-2019: Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/smoothies-offered-child-nutrition-programs

Vegetable Subgroups in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/crediting/vegetable_subgroups_cacfp.pdf
Applies only to the preschool meal patterns

Vegetable Subgroups in the National School Lunch Program (CSDE):
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/vegetable_subgroups_nslp.pdf
Applies only to the meal patterns for grades K-12

Vegetables Component (CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/vegetables

What's in a Meal Module 12: Vegetables Component (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module12

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

Water Availability for School Nutrition Programs

Increasing Access to Drinking Water in Schools (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):
https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-schools/media/pdfs/water_access_in_schools_508_2.pdf

USDA Memo SP 28-2011 Revised: Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Water Availability During National School Lunch Program Meal Service:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/water-availability-during-nslp-meal-service

USDA Memo SP 39-2019: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/clarification-milk-and-water-requirements-school-meal-program

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/cn/resources-making-potable-water-available-schools-and-child-care-facilities-0

Water Access in Schools (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):
https://www.cdc.gov/school-nutrition/water-access/index.html

Water Availability for School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/water-availability-for-school-nutrition-programs

Water Safety (USDA):
https://www.fns.usda.gov/fs/water-safety

What's in a Meal Module 16: Water Availability During Meal Service (CSDE's Training Program, What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs):
https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials#module16

Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

For more information, visit the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs webpage, Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage, and Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs 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/nslp/crediting/resources_school_meal_patterns_snp.pdf.

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Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs

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