

Noncreditable Foods in the Summer Food Service Program

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



Definition of Noncreditable Foods

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

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

Requirements for Noncreditable Foods

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

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



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Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns

Almond flour	Commercial smoothies	Fruit drink, fruit beverage,	Ice milk	Popsicles (not 100	Soups, commercial non-
Almond milk ²	that contain dietary	powdered fruit drink	Iced coffee	percent juice)	vegetable, e.g., beef
Bacon (pork)	or herbal	mix	Iced tea	Potato chips	barley, beef noodle,
Bacon bits, regular or imitation	supplements	Fruit leathers	Imitation cheese	Powdered milk	turkey or chicken
Banana chips	Condiments, e.g.,	Fruit punch (not 100	Jam and jelly	beverages, e.g.,	noodle, and turkey or
Bread products that are not	ketchup, mustard,	percent juice)	Ketchup	Nestle's NIDO	chicken rice
grain-rich (WGR) or	relish, barbecue sauce	Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-	Lemonade	Probiotic dairy drinks	Sour cream
enriched ³	Cranberry cocktail drink	ups, wrinkles, and	Limeade	Pudding	Soy milk ²
Butter	Cream, half and half	twists	Liquid egg substitutes	Pudding pops	Sports drinks, regular and
Candy ³	Cream cheese	Gelatin, regular and sugar	Maple syrup	Rice milk ²	diet
Candy-coated popcorn	Cream soups, canned,	free	Margarine	Salad dressings	Spreadable fruit
Chili sauce	e.g., cream of	Grain-based desserts at	Marshmallows	Salt pork	Syrup
Chocolate milk-based drinks,	mushroom, cream of	lunch and supper, e.g.,	Mayonnaise	Scrapple	Tea (regular, herbal, and
e.g., Yoo-Hoo	celery, cream of	cookies, granola bars,	Mustard	Sherbet	iced
Coconut flour	broccoli	cake, and pastries	Nectar drinks	Soda, regular and diet	Tofu with less than 5 grams
Coconut milk	Dehydrated vegetables	Grain products and recipes	Nondairy milk substitutes,	Soups, commercial	of protein in 2.2 ounces
Coffee (regular, decaffeinated,	used for seasoning	that are not whole grain	e.g., almond milk, rice	cream of	(weight) or ¼ cup
and iced)	Drinkable or squeezable	or enriched ³	milk, cashew milk, oat	vegetable, e.g.,	(volume) ⁶
Commercial processed	yogurt and yogurt	Home-canned products,	milk ²	cream of broccoli,	Water
products without a Child	drinks ⁵	e.g., vegetables and	Nutrition supplement	cream of	Yogurt products, e.g.,
Nutrition (CN) label or	Eggnog	fruits	beverages, e.g.,	mushroom, and	drinkable or squeezable
product formulation	Egg whites without the	Honey	Abbott's Pediasure	cream of celery	yogurt, frozen yogurt,
statement (PFS), e.g.,	yolk	Hot chocolate	Oat milk ²		yogurt bars, and yogurt-
entrees, smoothies, and	Frozen yogurt	Ice cream and ice cream	Pickle relish		covered fruits and nuts
breaded vegetables ⁴		novelties			

¹ For SFSP sites operating in schools, state laws prohibit selling and giving certain foods and beverages to children on school premises. Review all noncreditable foods to ensure compliance before selling to students. For more information, visit the CSDE's [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpages.

² For SFSP sites operating in schools, nondairy milk substitutes credit only for children with a disability based on a medical statement from a recognized medial authority. For additional guidance, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Requirements for the Milk Component of the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns](#), and visit the "Meal Modifications for Special Diets" section of the CSDE's SFSP webpage.

³ For guidance on creditable grains, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Requirements for the Grains/ Breads Component of the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns](#).

⁴ Commercial processed products without a CN label or PFS cannot credit in SFSP meals and snacks. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Using Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labels in the Summer Food Service Program](#), [Using Product Formulation Statements in the Summer Food Service Program](#), and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the Summer Food Service Program](#), and the USDA's [Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement](#).

⁵ For guidance on crediting yogurt, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Yogurt in the Summer Food Service Program..](#)

⁶ For guidance on crediting tofu, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the Summer Food Service Program..](#)

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Resources

Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Administrative Guidance for SFSP Sponsors (USDA):

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

Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

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

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

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

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

Crediting Deli Meats in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Enriched Grains in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

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

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

Crediting Juice in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Legumes in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Smoothies in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

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Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Summary Charts for the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns (CSDE):

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

Crediting Whole Grains in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Crediting Yogurt in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

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

Meal Patterns for the SFSP (“How To” Section of CSDE’s SFSP webpage):

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

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

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

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

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

Requirements for the Milk Component of the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns (CSDE):

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

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

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

Using Product Formulation Statements in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

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

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

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

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

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

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
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