

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

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

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Notes

- 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](#) webpage and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpage.
- ² **For SFSP sites operating in schools only:** 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
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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