

Noncreditable Foods in the Summer Food Service Program

This guidance applies to meals and snacks served in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). For information on the SFSP meal patterns, visit the “[Meal Patterns](#)” section of the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) SFSP webpage. For information on the crediting requirements, visit the CSDE’s [Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program](#) webpage and [Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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Noncreditable Foods in the Summer Food Service Program

Definition of Noncreditable Foods

Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that do not count toward the meal components of the meal patterns for the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. They include:

- foods and beverages in amounts too small to credit (i.e., less than the minimum creditable amount specified in the USDA meal patterns); and
- foods and beverages that do not belong to the for meal components (milk, vegetables/fruits, grains/breads, and meats/meat alternates).

Some 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 list in this document, “[Examples of Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP Meal Patterns](#),” provides additional examples of foods and beverages that do not credit in the SFSP meal patterns. This list is not all-inclusive.

Requirements for Noncreditable Foods

Foods served in reimbursable meals and snacks must meet the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#). SFSP funds cannot be used to purchase noncreditable foods, except for condiments served with creditable foods. This requirement is addressed in [USDA Memo SP 06-2012: Serving Additional Foods in the Summer Food Service Program](#).

Condiments served in addition to the meal components can help add variety, improve acceptability in the meal, and satisfy appetites. For example, SFSP sponsors may use SFSP funds to purchase ketchup and mustard for sandwiches and other entrees, syrup for pancakes, and salad dressing for tossed greens; but cannot use SFSP funds to purchase pudding or potato chips. This requirement is addressed in [USDA Memo SP 06-2012: Serving Additional Foods in the Summer Food Service Program](#).

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.

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Additional Requirements for SFSP Sites Operated by School Food Authorities

Additional state and federal laws apply to SFSP sites operated by school food authorities (SFAs) when noncreditable foods are available for sale to children on school premises separately from reimbursable meals served through the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). The [state competitive foods regulations](#) also prohibit certain noncreditable foods from being given to students on school premises from 30 minutes before up through 30 minutes after the operation of any CNPs.

The state and federal laws for competitive foods in schools are summarized in the CSDE's resources below.

- [Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools](#)
- [Requirements for Competitive Foods in Non-HFC Public Schools](#)
- [Requirements for Competitive Foods in Private Schools and RCCIs](#)

For more information, visit the CSDE's [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) webpage and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpage.



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Examples of Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP Meal Patterns

The foods and beverages below do not credit in the SFSP meal patterns. This list is not all-inclusive. For additional guidance, refer to the [Menu Planning Notes](#).

- Almond flour
- Almond milk ¹
- Bacon (pork)
- Bacon bits, regular or imitation
- Banana chips
- Bread products that are not whole grain, enriched, or contain a blend of creditable grains ²
- Breakfast cereals (ready-to-eat and cooked) that are not whole grain, whole grain-rich, enriched, or fortified ³
- Butter
- Candy
- Candy-coated popcorn
- Chili sauce
- Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo
- Coconut flour
- Coconut milk
- Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, and iced)
- Commercial processed products without a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS), e.g., entrees, smoothies, and breaded vegetables ⁴
- Commercial smoothies that contain dietary or herbal supplements
- Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce
- Cranberry cocktail drink
- Cream, half and half
- Cream cheese
- Cream soups, canned, e.g., cream of mushroom, cream of celery, cream of broccoli
- Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning
- Drinkable or squeezable yogurt and yogurt drinks ⁵
- Eggnog
- Egg whites without the yolk
- Frozen yogurt
- Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix
- Fruit leathers
- Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice)
- Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, and twists
- Gelatin, regular and sugar free
- Grain-based desserts at lunch and supper, e.g., cookies, granola bars, cakes, and pastries ⁷
- Grain products and recipes that are not whole grain, enriched, or a blend of creditable grains ²
- Home-canned products, e.g., vegetables and fruits
- Honey
- Hot chocolate
- Ice cream and ice cream novelties
- Ice milk

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- Iced coffee
- Iced tea
- Imitation cheese
- Jam and jelly
- Ketchup
- Lemonade
- Limeade
- Liquid egg substitutes
- Maple syrup
- Margarine
- Marshmallows
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Nectar drinks
- Nondairy milk substitutes, e.g., almond milk, rice milk, cashew milk, oat milk ¹
- Nutrition supplement beverages, e.g., Abbott's Pediasure
- Oat milk ¹
- Pickle relish
- Popsicles (not 100 percent juice)
- Potato chips
- Powdered milk beverages, e.g., Nestle's NIDO
- Probiotic dairy drinks
- Pudding
- Pudding pops
- Rice milk ¹
- Salad dressings
- Salt pork
- Scrapple
- Sherbet
- Soda, regular and diet
- Soups, commercial cream of vegetable, e.g., cream of broccoli, cream of mushroom, and cream of celery
- Soups, commercial non-vegetable, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice
- Sour cream
- Soy milk ¹
- Sports drinks, regular and diet
- Spreadable fruit
- Syrup
- Tea (regular, herbal, and iced
- Tofu with less than 5 grams of protein in 2.2 ounces (weight) or ¼ cup (volume) ⁵
- Water
- Yogurt products, e.g., drinkable or squeezable yogurt, frozen yogurt, yogurt bars, and yogurt-covered fruits and nuts ⁶

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Menu Planning Notes

- ¹ **Applies only to SFSP sites operated by SFAs:** Nondairy milk substitutes credit only for children with a disability based on a medical statement from a recognized medical 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 "Milk Substitutes" section of the CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage. Training on the crediting requirements for the milk component is available in the CSDE's Summer Meals annual training module, [Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 2: Milk Component](#).
- ² 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](#). Training on the crediting requirements for the grains/breads component is available in the CSDE's Summer Meals annual training module, [Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 4: Grains/Breads Component](#).
- ³ For guidance on creditable breakfast cereals, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the Summer Food Service Program](#).
- 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 resources, [USDA Memo SP 05-2025](#), [CACFP 04-2025](#), [SFSP 02-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements](#) and [Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement](#). Training on the crediting documentation requirements is available in the CSDE's Summer Meals annual training module, [Crediting Documentation for Summer Meals](#).
- ⁵ For guidance on crediting tofu, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the Summer Food Service Program](#).
- ⁶ For guidance on crediting yogurt, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Yogurt in the Summer Food Service Program](#).
- ⁷ For guidance on crediting grain-based desserts, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Grain-based Desserts 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/creditingfsfp/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

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_cereals_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_deli_sfsp.pdf

Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Program (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs>

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/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 Grain-based Desserts in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_grain_based_desserts_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_juice_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_legumes_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_nuts_seeds_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_smoothies_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/crediting_summary_charts_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/creditingfsfp/credit_tofu_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/credit_whole_grains_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/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 (CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/meal-patterns>

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/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/creditingfsfp/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/creditingfsfp/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/creditingfsfp/component_vegetables_fruits_sfsp.pdf

Summer Meals Annual Training Module: Crediting Documentation for Summer Meals ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#CreditingDocumentation>

Summer Meals Annual Training Module: Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 1: Introduction to Crediting Foods ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#CreditingFoods>

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Summer Meals Annual Training Module: Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 2: Milk Component ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#CreditingFoods>

Summer Meals Annual Training Module: Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 3: Meats/Meat Alternates Component ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#CreditingFoods>

Summer Meals Annual Training Module: Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 4: Grains/Breads Component ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#CreditingFoods>

Summer Meals Annual Training Module: Crediting Foods in the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns: Part 5: Vegetables/Fruits Component ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#CreditingFoods>

Summer Meals Annual Training Module: SFSP Meal Patterns ("Annual Training" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training#SFSPMealPatterns>

Using Child Nutrition (CN) Labels in the Summer Food Service Program (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/cn_labels_sfsp.pdf

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

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/sfsp/creditingfsfp/product_formulation_statements_sfsp.pdf

What's in a Meal Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation Part B – Crediting Commercial Processed Products (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/creditingfsfsp/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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