

Module 14: Water Availability During Meal Service



National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12

Module 14: Water Availability During Meal Service



Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

School Year 2024-25

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What's in a Meal Training Modules

- 1: Introduction to Training
- 2: Introduction to School Meal Patterns
- 3: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern
- 4: School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern
- 5: Dietary Specifications
- 6: Meal Pattern Documentation
 - Part A – School Menus
 - Part B – Crediting Commercial Processed Products
- 7: Milk Component
- 8: Meats/Meat Alternates Component
- 9: Fruits Component
- 10: Vegetables Component
- 11: Grains Component
- 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement
- 13: Grain Ounce Equivalents
- 14: Water Availability During Meal Service
- 15: Offer versus serve (OVS) in the NSLP
- 16: Offer versus serve (OVS) in the SBP

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials>

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Module Topics

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Topics

- Overview of water requirement
- Examples of how to offer water
- Implementation considerations
- Allowable costs
- Resources



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Overview of Potable Water Requirement

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Potable Water

Drinking water that comes from surface and ground sources and is treated to levels that meet state and federal standards for consumption

Terms to Know

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Plain Potable Water Must Be Available During Meal Service

Three Requirements

1. No restrictions
2. No charge
3. Unflavored




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Water Requirement Applies To

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)
- Seamless Summer Option (SSO) *school sites only*




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When Water Requirement Applies

Program	Requirement
NSLP (includes SSO school sites)	Any location where lunch is served
SBP (includes SSO school sites)	Cafeteria only
ASP	During snack service



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Field Trips


- Water requirement does not apply
- USDA encourages water availability



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Examples of Offering Water



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Examples of Offering Water

- Offer water pitchers and cups on tables or in accessible area




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Examples of Offering Water

- Provide unrestricted access to water fountain or faucet
 1. Location must be in foodservice area or immediately adjacent
 2. Must be operational
 3. Cafeteria supervisory staff must allow students access



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Examples of Offering Water

- Offer bottled water



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Important Considerations for Offering Water

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Important Considerations

- Water is not part of reimbursable meals or afterschool snacks
- Students are not required to take water
- Cannot promote or offer water as alternative selection to fluid milk throughout food service area




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CSDE Resource

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>

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Allowable Costs for Offering Water

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Allowable Costs for Offering Water

- No separate funding or reimbursement
- May use funds from nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA) for allowable costs
 - Reasonable
 - Necessary
 - Allocable



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Examples of Possible Allowable Costs for Potable Water

- Depends on SFA's specific circumstances




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Examples of Possible Allowable Costs for Potable Water

- Purchasing pitchers or cups
- Purchasing 5-gallon dispenser (if efficient and practical)
- Testing tap water and water fountains




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Costs Related to Providing Water Must Be

- Reasonable
- Necessary
- Allocable to school nutrition programs




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Costs Related to Providing Water Must Be

- Reasonable
- Necessary
- Allocable to school nutrition programs

Depends on specific circumstances of each individual school food authority




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USDA Resource

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/water-availability-during-nsip-meal-service>

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USDA Resource

**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-nsip-meal-service>

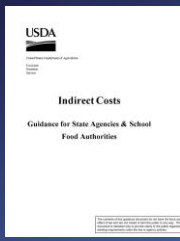
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USDA Resource

**Indirect Costs:
Guidance for State
Agencies & School
Food Authorities**

- General Criteria for Allowable Costs (page 13)



<https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/cn/SP60-2016a.pdf>

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Resources

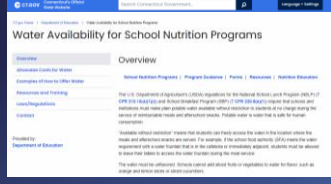


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USDA Resource

**Water Availability
for School Nutrition
Programs**



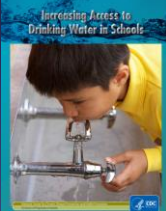
<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/water-availability-for-school-nutrition-programs>

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Resource

**Increasing Access to
Drinking Water in
Schools**



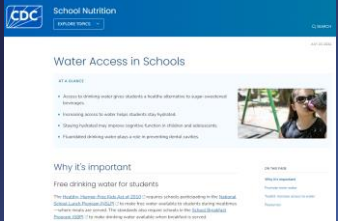
https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-schools/media/pdfs/water_access_in_schools_S08_2.pdf

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Resource

**Water Access
in Schools**



<https://www.cdc.gov/school-nutrition/water-access/index.html>

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Questions?

- Contact CSDE's school nutrition programs staff

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cnstaff/countyassign.pdf>

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Thanks for participating!



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials>

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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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