


Module 14: Water Availability During Meal Service



WHAT'S IN A MEAL
Grades K-12

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

School Year 2023-24

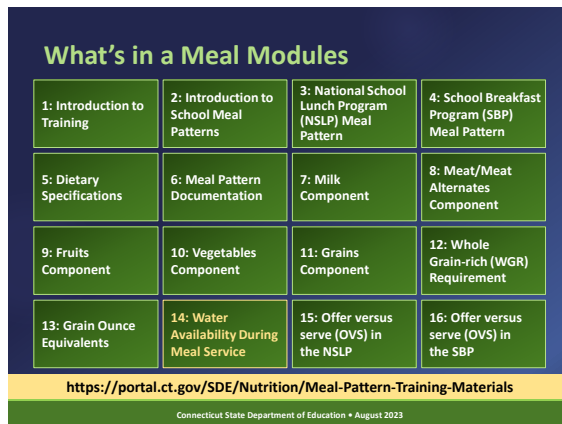
Module 14: Water Availability During Meal Service

CSDE
CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

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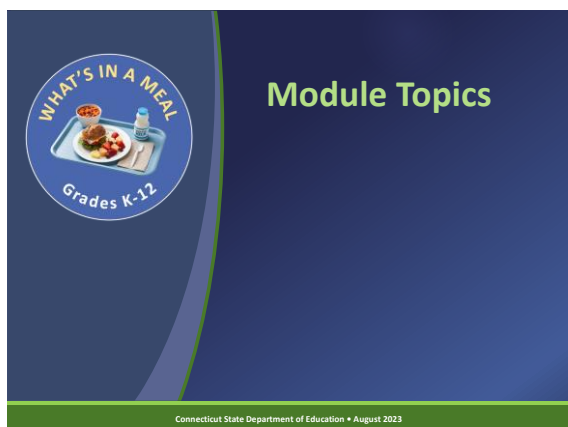
What's in a Meal Modules

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	7: Milk Component	8: Meat/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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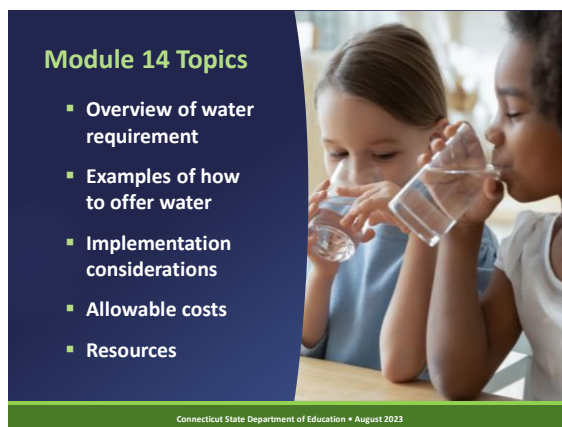


WHAT'S IN A MEAL
Grades K-12

Module Topics


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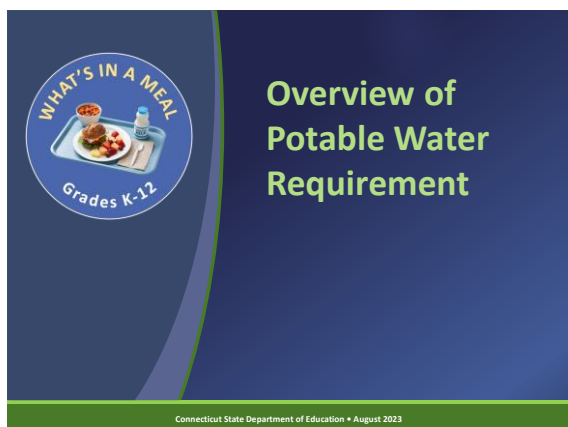
Module 14 Topics

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



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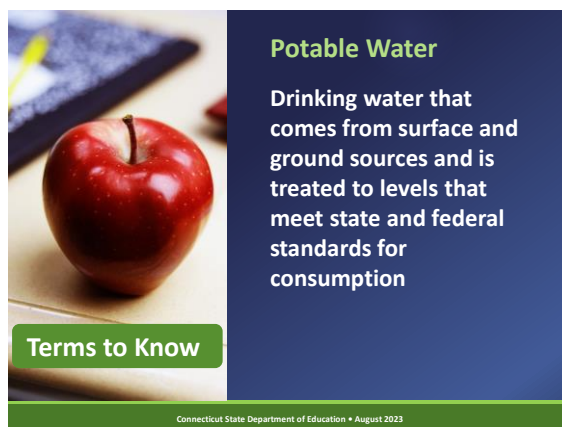


WHAT'S IN A MEAL
Grades K-12

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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Potable Water Must Be Available During Meal Service

1	2	3
No restrictions	No charge	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 *	Any location where lunch is served
SBP *	Cafeteria only
ASP	During snack service

* Includes SSO school sites



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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 in NSLP and SBP

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



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Examples of Offering Water in NSLP and SBP

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



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Examples of Offering Water in NSLP and SBP

- 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 ASP 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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USDA 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



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Examples of Possible Allowable Costs

- 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 Always Be

- Reasonable
- Necessary
- Allocable to school nutrition programs




Depends on specific circumstances of 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-nslp-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-nslp-meal-service>

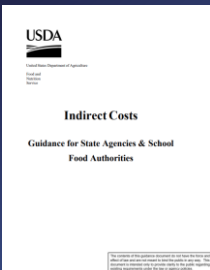
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USDA Resource

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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