

# SFSP Offer vs. Serve

The goals of the Offer versus Serve (OVS) are to decrease food waste, increase food choices, and lower food cost. When using the OVS approach, all planned menu items must be offered to all children. Children may refuse a specified number of menu items. A site can implement OVS by meal type. This means, if the site is offering both breakfast and lunch and they decide to implement OVS for lunch, then they do not have to implement OVS for breakfast or vice versa. OVS may be implemented for breakfast or lunch/supper programs. OVS may not be implemented for snack programs.

Due to the distinguishing nature of the SFSP and NSLP, including variations in settings and resources, the OVS requirements in SFSP are different from the OVS requirements in NSLP. In order to ensure that children are receiving enough food to meet their nutritional needs, OVS requirements in SFSP are as follows:

## **Breakfast:**

- Three (3) food components are required for a reimbursable breakfast:
  - One serving of fruit/vegetable,
  - One serving of bread/bread alternate, and
  - One serving of fluid milk.
- At least four (4) different food items from the food components listed above must be offered for OVS in SFSP.
- The fourth food item offered can be a serving of fruit/vegetable, bread/bread alternate, or meat/meat alternate.

**A child must take three (3) of the four (4) food items offered and may only decline one food item.**

## **Lunch or Supper:**

- Four (4) food components are required for a reimbursable lunch or supper:
  - One serving of meat/meat alternate,
  - Two servings of fruit and/or vegetables (two different food items),
  - One serving of bread/bread alternate, and
  - One serving of fluid milk.
- At least five (5) different food items from the food components listed above must be offered for OVS in SFSP.
- Lunch or supper OVS requirements differ from breakfast in that a child must take at least three of the four food components, rather than items, listed above

**A child may only decline up to two (2) food items; however, the child must still have at least three (3) of the four (4) food components represented to be a reimbursable meal.**

Children must be offered all food components using the full serving size or a combination which served together equal a full serving size that will meet USDA requirements. See Required Meal Pattern at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/meal\\_pattern.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/meal_pattern.pdf). If choices of food items or components are offered, the serving size(s) of each choice must be the equivalent of one full component or served in a combination which equals 1 full serving, such as 2 tablespoons of peanut butter served with 1 oz of cheese served together equals one full 2 oz meat/meat alternate serving. Double servings of the same component count as only one component, such as two milks.

Children may choose to take all meal components offered. Children are not required to take any one component over another such as the entrée or the fluid milk. Children have the option of which food component to decline unless the food is packaged as a unit (box or sack). Components may not be removed from prepackaged meals. One person must be designated to check that a minimum number of full servings of components for breakfast/lunch/supper are included on each tray before it is counted as a reimbursable meal. This may be the same person who is taking meal counts.

Second meals follow the same requirements as the first meal in OVS. For a meal to count as a second meal at an OVS site, the meal must contain a minimum number of full components. All meal components must be available to each child daily. For example if the projected meal count is 50 meals the sponsor must have 50 complete meals available at the start of the meal service. Partial meals will be disallowed.

Please refer to the SFSP e-training "Offer vs. Serve" on our training website at:  
[http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp\\_training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm)

*OVS is an option in SFSP, not a requirement.*

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