



State of Arizona
Department of Education

HNS #41-2013
USDA SP# 45-2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program

FROM: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Mark Frantz, Acting Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Updated Offer versus Serve Guidance for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program in School Year 2013-2014

Original Signed

Offer versus Serve (OVS) is a provision in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) that allows students to decline some of the food offered. The goals of OVS are to reduce food waste in the school meals programs while permitting students to decline foods they do not intend to eat.

The attached "OVS Guidance for SY 13-14" (available: <http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/nslp/2012-2013/>) is the updated guidance manual for operators utilizing OVS, which is optional at all grade levels for breakfast and required at the senior high school level (grades 9-12) only for lunch. As parts of the NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements are being phased-in over multiple years, this memorandum provides guidance for School Year (SY) 2013-2014 *only*. The guidance will be revised, as needed, to reflect new requirements as they are phased-in.

This guidance is intended to clarify the requirements of OVS, specifically related to what students must take in order to have a reimbursable meal.

OVS at Lunch

At lunch, schools must offer students all five required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at lunch are: meats/meat alternates; grains; fruits; vegetables; and fluid milk. Under OVS, a student must take at least three components in the required serving sizes. One selection must be at least ½ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.

OVS at Breakfast

At breakfast, schools must offer students all three required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at breakfast are: grains (with optional meats/meat



alternates allowed); juice/fruit/vegetable; and fluid milk. Under OVS, a student must be offered at least four food items and must select at least three food items. In SY 2013-2014, students are not required to take a minimum of ½ cup of fruit or vegetable for OVS.

For specific questions related to the lunch meal pattern requirements, please refer to ADE memorandum HNS#07-2013: Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010 QA on Final Rule Nutrition Standards in the NSLP SBP (Revised January 25, 2013). For specific questions related to breakfast meal pattern requirement, please refer to ADE memorandum HNS#33-2013: Questions & Answers on the School Breakfast Program Meal Pattern in School Year 2013-2014 (Revised June 18, 2013). Please note that HNS#19-2013 has been updated to HNS#33-2013 to reflect consistency with the additional flexibility described in this OVS guidance.

Please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist for questions concerning this guidance. Contact information can be found on the homepage once logged into Common Logon.

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