

**Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)**

**Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2025-26 and ASP Operational Requirements**

CONNECTICUT Education  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

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**Welcome**

**Part 1: ASP Meal Pattern**

- New final rule requirements
- Crediting guidance for meal components
- Resources

**Part 2: ASP Operational Requirements**

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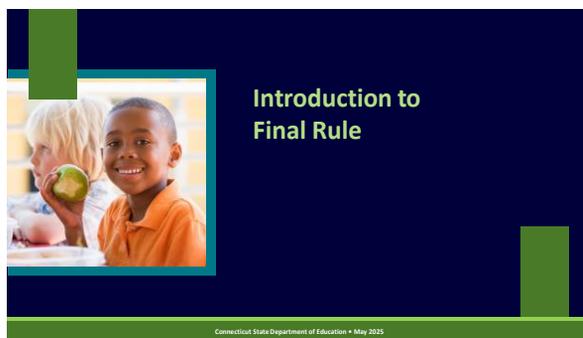


**Housekeeping**

- Ask questions
  - Add to chat anytime
  - Raise your hand during question breaks
- Webinar and handout will be posted
  - Will announce in School Lunch Tray

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**Introduction to Final Rule**

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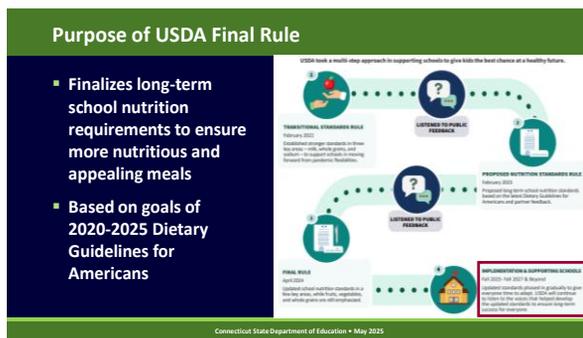
**USDA Final Rule: April 25, 2024**

- Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/25/2024-08098/child-nutrition-programs-meal-patterns-consistent-with-the-2020-2025-dietary-guidelines-for-americans>

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**Purpose of USDA Final Rule**

- Finalizes long-term school nutrition requirements to ensure more nutritious and appealing meals
- Based on goals of 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

USDA took a multi-step approach to supporting schools to give kids the best chance at a healthy future.

**TRANSITIONAL CHANGES BILL**  
February 2021  
Established rules for schools to meet updated meal requirements and updated meal patterns for the 2022-2023 school year.

**LISTENED TO PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

**PROPOSED NUTRITION CHANGES BILL**  
February 2023  
Established new meal and meal pattern requirements for schools to meet for the 2023-2024 school year.

**LISTENED TO PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

**FINAL RULE**  
April 2024  
Established final meal and meal pattern requirements for schools to meet for the 2024-2025 school year.

**IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORTING CHANGES**  
July 2025 - Fall 2027 & beyond  
Additional changes to support schools to meet the final rule requirements for the 2024-2025 school year.

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### Final Rule Changes Include

- Meal patterns
  - ASP meal patterns for grades K-12
  - NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12
  - NSLP/SBP/ASP preschool meal patterns
- Buy American requirement
- Professional standards
- Geographic preference
- Smart Snacks nutrition standards



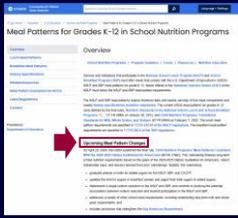
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### CSDE Resource

#### Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs

- Upcoming Meal Pattern Changes



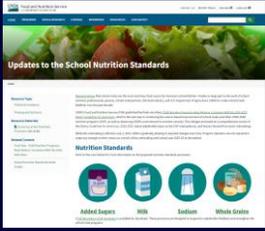
[https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs#Upcoming\\_Meal\\_Pattern\\_Changes](https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-school-nutrition-programs#Upcoming_Meal_Pattern_Changes)

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### USDA Webpage

#### Updates to the School Nutrition Standards



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-nutrition-standards-updates>

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### Meal Pattern Terminology Changes to Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs (Effective July 1, 2024)



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### Terminology Updates for ASP Meal Patterns

Old	New as of July 1, 2024
Food component	Meal component
Legumes	Beans, peas and lentils
Meal supplements	Afterschool snacks



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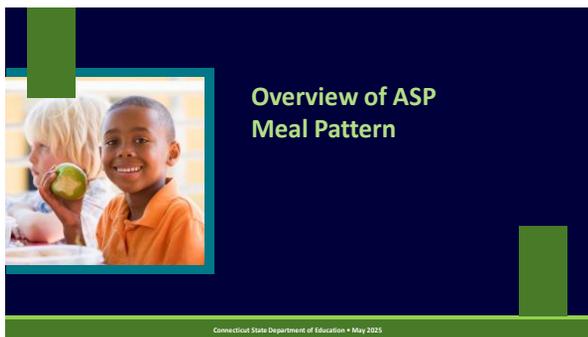
### Revises Definition of "Child" for ASP

- Clarifies that children who are age 18 and under at start of school year may receive reimbursable NSLP snacks



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### Overview of ASP Meal Pattern

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### New Meal Pattern Effective July 1, 2025

- Aligns with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) snack meal pattern for children
- Two additional NSLP/SBP requirements
  - Weekly juice limit
  - Weekly whole grain-rich (WGR) requirement

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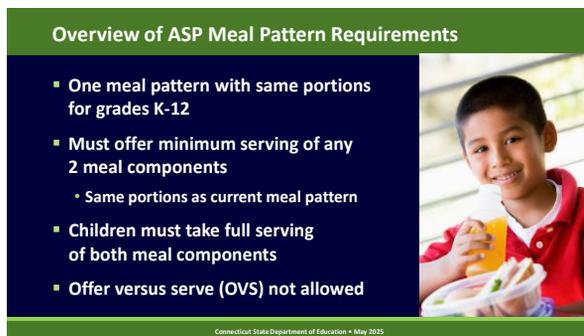


### Change to Number of Meal Components

- 5 instead of 4
  - Milk
  - Vegetables
  - Fruits
  - Meats/meat alternates (MMA)
  - Grains

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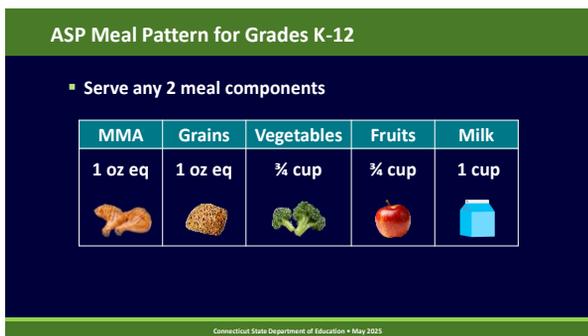


### Overview of ASP Meal Pattern Requirements

- One meal pattern with same portions for grades K-12
- Must offer minimum serving of any 2 meal components
  - Same portions as current meal pattern
- Children must take full serving of both meal components
- Offer versus serve (OVS) not allowed

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### ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12

- Serve any 2 meal components

MMA	Grains	Vegetables	Fruits	Milk
1 oz eq	1 oz eq	¼ cup	¼ cup	1 cup
				

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### Beverage Limit at Snack

- Only one meal component may be a creditable beverage

**Not reimbursable**

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### Beverage Limit at Snack

- Only one meal component may be a creditable beverage



**Not reimbursable**



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### Menu Planning Considerations for Snack Menus



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### Minimum Creditable Amount

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup
  - Vegetables
  - Fruits
- $\frac{1}{4}$  oz eq
  - Grains
  - MMA
- 1 cup milk, except  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup for smoothies



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### Offering Meal Component As More Than 1 Food Item

- Each food item must be at least minimum creditable amount
- Total offered quantity must equal meal pattern serving
- Students must take both meal components (all food items) for reimbursable snack



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### Additional Foods or Larger Servings

- Consider appropriateness based on children's nutrition needs
- Older children might need larger servings



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### Sample Snack Menu for Grades K-12



1 oz eq cheese



1 oz eq WGR crackers

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### Choose Nutrient-dense Foods for Additional Servings

- High in nutrients
- Low in added fats, sugars, and sodium



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### Meal Components Must Be Visible

- Students must be able to recognize foods
- Exceptions
  - Yogurt blended in fruit/vegetable smoothies
  - Pureed fruits/vegetables in smoothies
  - Pasta made with 100 percent vegetable flour



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### Limit Noncreditable Foods

- Foods and beverages that do not count toward meal components
  - Too small to credit
  - Do not belong to any meal components



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### CSDE Resource

Noncreditable Foods in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs

- New combined resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/noncreditable\\_foods\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/noncreditable_foods_snp.pdf)

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### Additional State Requirements for ASP Menus



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### Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS)

Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Districts

- Foods served in ASP menus must comply with CNS



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/connecticut-nutrition-standards>

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### State Beverage Statute

**All Public Schools**

- Beverages served in ASP menus must comply with state beverage statute



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/beverage-requirements>

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### Questions About ASP Meal Pattern Overview



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### Review of Meal Components

- Final rule updates
- Crediting reminders



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### Meal Pattern Documentation Requirements

- Maintain crediting information for all foods and beverages
  - Commercial processed products
  - Foods made from scratch



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### Examples of Commercial Processed Products

- Combination foods with more than one meal component
- Foods with added liquids, binders, and extenders
- Dried meat, poultry, and seafood products
- Fruits and vegetables with added ingredients
- WGR or enriched grain products with noncreditable grains



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### USDA Resource

USDA Memo SP 05-2025, CACFP 04-2025, and SFSP 02-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling/guidance-accepting-processed-product-documentation>

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**CSDE Resource**

### Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the School Nutrition Programs



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsp/crediting/accepting\\_processed\\_product\\_documentation\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsp/crediting/accepting_processed_product_documentation_snp.pdf)

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**Documentation for Foods Made From Scratch**

- Standardized recipes

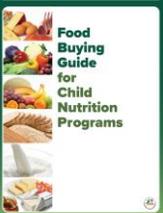


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**Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG)**

- Includes food yields and crediting information
- Determines crediting of recipes
- Purchase correct amounts of foods
- Determine meal pattern contribution



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tm/food-buying-guide-training-resources>

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**CSDE Resource**

### What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs

- Module 7: Meal Pattern Documentation for School Menus
- Module 8: Meal Pattern Documentation for Crediting Commercial Processed Products



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

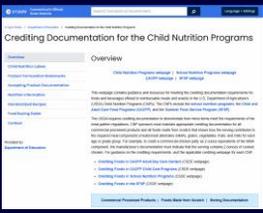
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**CSDE Webpage**

### Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs

- Child Nutrition labels
- Product formulation statements
- Nutrition information
- Accepting product documentation
- Standardized recipes
- Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs



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

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**CSDE Webpage**

### Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-school-nutrition-programs/grains>

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### Changes to Milk Component



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### New Added Sugars Limit for Flavored Milk

- Reimbursable snacks ≤ 10 grams per 8 fluid ounces
- Competitive food in middle and high schools ≤ 15 grams per 12 fluid ounces

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### Fluid Milk Substitutes for Non-disability Reasons

Effective July 1, 2024

- Updates vitamins A and D units per cup to align with FDA's labeling requirements



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### Changes to Nutrition Standards for Fluid Milk Substitutes

Nutrient	Old	New as of July 1, 2024
Vitamin A	500 international units (IUs)	150 micrograms (mcg) retinol activity equivalents (RAE)
Vitamin D	100 IUs	2.5 mcg



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### CSDE Resource

Allowable Fluid Milk Substitutes for Non-Disability Reasons in the School Nutrition Programs



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiel/milk\\_substitutes\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiel/milk_substitutes_snp.pdf)

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### Overview of Crediting for Milk



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### Allowable Types of Milk

- Low fat (1%), unflavored or flavored
- Fat-free, unflavored or flavored
- Flavored milk must meet limit for added sugars

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### Milk Variety Not Required at Snack

- May serve one type of allowable milk to all children



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### Crediting Milk in Smoothies

- At least ¼ cup
- Must include 1 cup milk to count as one of the two required meal components



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### Fluid Milk Substitutes for Non-disability Reasons

- May choose to offer to children for non-disability reasons
- Must meet USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes
- Require written request from parent/guardian



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### CSDE Resource

Allowable Fluid Milk Substitutes for Non-Disability Reasons in the School Nutrition Programs



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/milk\\_substitutes\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/specdiet/milk_substitutes_snp.pdf)

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### Examples of Noncreditable Milk



- Milk that does not meet required fat content, e.g., whole milk and reduced-fat (2%) milk
- Flavored milk that exceeds limit for added sugars
- Fluid milk substitutes that do not meet USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes, e.g., almond milk, cashew milk, rice milk, most brands of oat milk, and many brands of soy milk
- Dairy foods made from milk, e.g., yogurt and cheese
- Milk cooked or baked in prepared foods, e.g., cereals, puddings, and cream sauces
- Nutrition supplement beverages
- Powdered milk beverages

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### Questions About Milk



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### Changes to Vegetables and Fruits



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### Meal Component Changes from 1 to 2

**Current**

- Vegetables/fruits component

**New**

- Vegetables component
- Fruits component



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### Current ASP Meal Pattern (Through June 30, 2025)

- Reimbursable snack?

**No: Only 1 meal component**



$\frac{3}{4}$  cup



$\frac{3}{4}$  cup

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### New ASP Meal Pattern (Effective July 1, 2025)

- Reimbursable snack?

**Yes: 2 different meal components**



$\frac{3}{4}$  cup



$\frac{3}{4}$  cup

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### New Weekly Juice Limit

- $\leq 50\%$  of weekly fruits and vegetables



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### New Weekly Juice Limit

- ≤ 50% of weekly fruits and vegetables
- Includes
  - All juices (fruit, vegetable, combination)
  - Pureed fruits/vegetables in smoothies
  - Frozen 100% juice pops



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### Weekly Juice Limit: Example 1

M	T	W	Th	F
Strawberries, ¾ cup Enriched crackers	Whole-grain cereal Milk	Carrot sticks, ¾ cup Peanut butter	Yogurt Orange juice, ¾ cup	Whole-wheat pita bread Cheese cubes

- Juice: ¾ cup
- Fruits and vegetables: 1½ cups

**Yes: 50% juice**



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### Weekly Juice Limit: Example 2

M	T	W	Th	F
Green grapes, ¾ cup Cheese cubes	Whole-grain cereal Milk	Strawberry smoothie, ¾ cup pureed berries WGR pretzels	Yogurt Orange juice, ¾ cup	Whole-wheat pita bread Peanut butter

- Juice: 1½ cups
- Fruits and vegetables: ¾ cup

**No**



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Juices in the School Nutrition Programs

- New combined resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit\\_juices\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_juices_snp.pdf)

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### New Crediting for Raw Leafy Greens

- Credit as half volume served
- Example  
1½ cups = ¾ cup of vegetables component

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### New Crediting for Dried Fruits

- Credit as twice volume served
- Example  
¾ cup = ¾ cup of fruits component

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### Crediting Requirements for Fruits and Vegetables



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### Allowable Fruits

- Fresh
- Frozen
- Dried
- Canned (juice, water, or light syrup)
- Pasteurized 100 percent full-strength fruit juice



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### Crediting Whole Fresh Fruits

- Meal pattern contribution varies depending on type and size
- Individual piece of fresh fruit might not provide  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup



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### Example 1: One Size 60 or 65 Plum

Fruit (1 piece)	FBG meal pattern contribution	Additional amount for $\frac{1}{4}$ cup
Plum, Japanese or hybrid, size 60 and 65	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup



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### Example 2: One 113-count Orange

Fruit (1 piece)	FBG meal pattern contribution	Additional amount for $\frac{1}{4}$ cup
Orange, 113-count	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup



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### Pureed Fruits and Vegetables in Smoothies

- Credit as juice based on pureed volume (cups) in serving
- Count toward weekly juice limit
- Crediting documentation required



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**CSDE Resource**

**Crediting Smoothies in the School Nutrition Programs**



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit\\_smoothies\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_smoothies_snp.pdf)

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**Examples of Noncreditable Fruits** 

- Banana chips
- Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, fruit leathers, fruit wrinkles, fruit twists, and yogurt-covered fruit snacks
- Home-canned fruit products (for food safety reasons)
- Jams, jellies, and preserves
- Juice drinks that are not 100% juice, e.g., grape juice drink, orange juice drink, cranberry juice cocktail, and lemonade

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**Allowable Vegetables**

- Fresh
- Frozen
- Canned (must be drained)
- Dried vegetables (require product formulation statement)
- Pasteurized 100 percent full-strength vegetable juice



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**Examples of Noncreditable Vegetables** 

- Chili sauce, ketchup, pickle relish
- Commercial cream vegetable soups, e.g., cream of broccoli, cream of mushroom, cream of celery
- Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning
- Home-canned vegetable products (for food safety reasons)
- Snack-type foods made from vegetables, e.g., potato chips, corn chips

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**Questions About Vegetables and Fruits**



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**Changes to Meats/Meat Alternates (MMA) Component**



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### Quantities for MMA Component

- Change from ounces to oz eq
- Does not affect required meal pattern portions



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### New Added Sugars Limit for Yogurt and Soy Yogurt

- ≤ 12 grams per 6 ounces
  - ≤ 2 grams per ounce
- 1 oz eq MMA = ½ cup or 4 ounces

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Yogurt in the School Nutrition Programs

- New combined resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit\\_yogurt\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit_yogurt_snp.pdf)

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### Overview of Crediting for MMA



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### 1 Oz Eq MMA =

- Different types of MMA require different amounts
- Measured by weight or volume, depending on type of MMA



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### 1 ounce = 1 oz eq MMA

- Cooked lean meat, poultry, and fish
- Natural and process cheeses
- Tempeh
- Alternate protein products (APP)
- Nuts and seeds



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### 1 Oz Eq MMA =

- 2 ounces**
  - Cottage or ricotta cheese
  - Cheese food/spread
  - Cheese substitute
- 3 ounces**
  - Surimi
- ½ cup or 4 ounces**
  - Yogurt or soy yogurt
- ¼ cup**
  - Cooked beans, peas, and lentils
- 2.2 ounces (¼ cup)**
  - Commercial tofu
- 2 tablespoons**
  - Nut and seed butters
- Each**
  - ½ large egg

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### Crediting Nuts, Seeds and Nut/Seed Butters

- Almonds
- Brazil nuts
- Cashews
- Filberts
- Macadamia nuts
- Peanuts
- Pine nuts
- Pistachios
- Pumpkin seeds
- Soy nuts
- Sunflower seeds
- Almond butter
- Cashew butter
- Peanut butter
- Sesame seed butter
- Soy nut butter
- Sunflower seed butter



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### Crediting Nuts, Seeds and Nut/Seed Butters

1 oz eq MMA =

- 1 ounce nuts/seeds
- 2 tablespoons nut/seed butters



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#### Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the School Nutrition Programs

- Updated for July 1, 2025



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### Crediting Beans, Peas, and Lentils

- Serving credits as MMA or vegetables but not both in same snack
- If 2 different servings, could credit 1 serving as MMA and the other as vegetable



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Beans, Peas, and Lentils in the School Nutrition Programs

- Updated resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit\\_beans\\_peas\\_lentils\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_beans_peas_lentils_snp.pdf)

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### Crediting Deli Meats

**Added Liquids, Binders, Extenders**

- Credit based on percentage of meat in product formula, not serving weight
- Require CN label or PFS unless listed in FBG



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Deli Meats in the School Nutrition Programs

- Updated resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit\\_deli\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit_deli_snp.pdf)

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### Crediting Dried Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Products

- Not listed in FBG
- Require CN label or PFS to credit
- Must evaluate PFS for compliance with USDA crediting requirements



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### USDA Resource

#### USDA Memo SP 21-2019: Crediting Shelf-Stable, Dried and Semi-Dried Meats, Poultry, and Seafood Products in the Child Nutrition Programs



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-shelf-stable-dried-and-semi-dried-meat-poultry-and-seafood-products-child-nutrition>

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### Three Crediting Requirements for Tofu

1. Commercially prepared
2. Easily recognized as meat substitutes, e.g., tofu burgers and tofu sausages
3. Contain  $\geq 5$  grams of protein per 2.2-ounce serving



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the School Nutrition Programs

- Updated for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit\\_tofu\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit_tofu_snp.pdf)

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### Crediting Alternate Protein Products (APPs)

**Examples**

- Soy flour
- Soy concentrate
- Soy isolate
- Whey protein concentrate
- Whey protein isolate
- Casein



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### Crediting Commercial Products with APPs

- Must meet specific criteria defined in Appendix A of NSLP and SBP regulations
- Must obtain documentation from manufacturer
  - CN label
  - PFS with supporting documentation from manufacturer



[https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-210#part-210-11.\(A\),\(1.\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-210#part-210-11.(A),(1.))

Connecticut State Department of Education • May 2025

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### CSDE Resource

**Requirements for Alternate Protein Products in the School Nutrition Programs**

- Updated for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/app\\_requirements\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/app_requirements_snp.pdf)

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### Examples of Noncreditable MMA



- Bacon (pork)
- Commercial canned soups, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice
- Cream cheese, sour cream
- Egg whites without yolks
- Liquid egg substitutes
- Imitation cheese
- Salt pork, scrapple
- Tofu products not easily recognized as meat substitutes
- Tofu with less than 5 grams of protein per 2.2-ounce serving
- Yogurt with more than 2 grams added sugars per ounce
- Yogurt products, e.g., drinkable or squeezable yogurt, frozen yogurt, yogurt bars, yogurt-covered breakfast bars, and yogurt-covered fruits and nuts

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### CSDE Resource

**Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the School Nutrition Programs**

- Updated resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit\\_commercial\\_mma\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_commercial_mma_snp.pdf)

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### Questions About MMA



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### Changes to Grains Component



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### Component Name and Quantities

- Grains/breads component changes to grains component
- Quantities change from servings to oz eq

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### 1 Oz Eq of Grains =

- 0.8 ounce crackers, breadsticks, hard pretzels
- 1 ounce bread, biscuits, bagels, rolls, buns, tortillas, cold cereal
- 1.2 ounces corn muffins, cornbread, pancakes, waffles
- 2 ounces all muffins except corn
- ½ cup cooked (28 grams dry) hot cereal (e.g., oatmeal), pasta or noodles, rice, or cereal grains



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### CSDE Resource

#### Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12

- New for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/grain\\_oz\\_eq\\_asp\\_grades\\_k12.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/grain_oz_eq_asp_grades_k12.pdf)

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### CSDE Resource

#### Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs

- New combined resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/grain\\_calculation\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/grain_calculation_snp.pdf)

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### CSDE Resource

#### When Commercial Grain Products Require a Product Formulation Statement to Credit in the School Nutrition Programs

- Updated for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/when\\_commercial\\_grain\\_products\\_require\\_pfs\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/when_commercial_grain_products_require_pfs_snp.pdf)

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### New Weekly Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement

- $\geq 80\%$  of weekly grains must be WGR
- $\leq 20\%$  enriched grains

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### Whole Grain-rich (WGR)

The grain content of a product is between 50 and 100 percent whole grain with any remaining grains being enriched

Terms to Know



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### Calculating Weekly WGR Percentage

- Based on total oz eq of offered grains



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### Example of Grains in Weekly Snack Menu

- Does menu meet WGR requirement?

WGR	Enriched	Total
4 oz eq	1 oz eq	5 oz eq

Yes  $4 \div 5 = 80\%$



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### New Limit for Added Sugars in Breakfast Cereals

- $\leq 6$  grams per dry ounce

Same as NSLP/SBP meal patterns for grades K-12



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the School Nutrition Programs

- New combined resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit\\_cereals\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/credit_cereals_snp.pdf)

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### No Grain-based Desserts

- Cannot credit



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### Examples of Grain-based Desserts



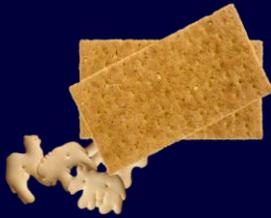
- Brownies, plain
- Cakes, e.g., coffee cake, cupcakes, gingerbread
- Cereal bars, breakfast bars, granola bars
- Cookies
- Doughnuts
- Fruit-filled buns and bars
- Dessert pies, fruit cobblers, fruit crisps, fruit turnovers
- Pastries, e.g., sweet rolls, cinnamon rolls, danish, toaster pastries

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### Animal Crackers and Graham Crackers

- Not grain-based desserts
- Recommended limit ≤ 2 times per week



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### Overview of Crediting for Grains



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### Creditable Grain Foods



Commercial products and foods made from scratch that contain a sufficient quantity of creditable grains and do not exceed the limit for noncreditable grains

- Whole grain-rich (WGR) grain foods
- Enriched grain foods
- WGR, enriched, or fortified breakfast cereals

Terms to Know

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### Creditable Grains



The ingredients in a commercial product or standardized recipe that count toward the grains component of the school meal patterns

- Whole grains
- Enriched grains
- Bran
- Germ

Terms to Know

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### Enriched Grains

- Refined grains and grain products with 5 enrichment nutrients
  - Thiamin
  - Riboflavin
  - Niacin
  - Folic acid
  - Iron
- Cannot exceed 20% of weekly grains



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### CSDE Resource

#### Crediting Enriched Grains in the School Nutrition Programs



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit\\_enriched\\_grains\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/crediting/credit_enriched_grains_snp.pdf)

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### Different WGR Criteria

- Commercial baked goods (groups A-G)
- Cereal grains, including cooked breakfast cereals (group H)
- Cold breakfast cereals (group I)
- Foods made from scratch



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### WGR Criteria for Commercial Baked Goods (Groups A-G)

**Examples**

- Crackers
- Breads
- Rolls
- Taco shells
- Muffins
- Waffles
- Pancakes

- ≥ 50% whole grains
- ≤ 3.99 grams of noncreditable grains per portion



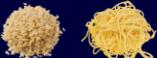
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### WGR Criteria for Cereal Grains (Group H)

**Examples**

- Pasta
- Rice
- Cooked breakfast cereals
- Barley
- Buckwheat
- Oats
- Quinoa



- ≥ 50% whole grains
- ≤ 6.99 grams of noncreditable grains per portion
- Cooked breakfast cereals must also meet limit for added sugars
  - ≤ 6 grams per dry ounce

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### WGR Criteria for Cold Breakfast Cereals (Group I)

**Examples**

- Puffed cereals
- Flaked cereals
- Round cereals
- Granola



- First ingredient is whole grain and cereal is fortified
  - Fortification not required for 100% whole grains
- Noncreditable grains ≤ 6.99 grams per portion
- ≤ 6 grams added sugars per dry ounce

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### WGR Criteria for Foods Made from Scratch

- ≥ 50% whole grains
- Noncreditable grains cannot exceed limit
  - Groups A-G: ≤ 3.99 grams
  - Groups H-I: ≤ 6.99 grams



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### CSDE Resource

Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs

- New combined resource for July 1, 2025



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/wgr\\_requirement\\_snp\\_grades\\_k-12.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/crediting/wgr_requirement_snp_grades_k-12.pdf)

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### Examples of Noncreditable Grain Foods

- Commercial grain products that are not WGR or enriched
- Standardized recipes that are not WGR or enriched
- Breakfast cereals that are not WGR, enriched, or fortified
- Breakfast cereals with more than 6 grams added sugars per dry ounce
- Grain foods that exceed limit for noncreditable grains



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### Questions About Grains



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### Accepting Medical Statements for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs



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### Terminology Updates for Meal Modifications

Old	New as of July 1, 2024
Medical authority	State licensed healthcare professional or registered dietitian



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### State Licensed Healthcare Professional

An individual authorized to write medical prescriptions under state law

- Defined by Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH)

**Terms to Know**

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### Connecticut State Licensed Healthcare Professionals

- Licensed physicians (MD)
- Physician assistants (PA) and certified physician assistants (PAC)
- Doctors of osteopathy (DO)
- Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN)



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### Who Can Sign Medical Statements

- State licensed healthcare professionals
- Registered dietitians (RD or RDN)



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### Who Can Sign Medical Statements

- State licensed healthcare professionals
- Registered dietitians (RD or RDN)
  - May accept beginning July 1, 2024
  - Must accept beginning July 1, 2025



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### Meal Modifications for Disability Reasons

- **Required**
- Medical statement must be signed by
  - state licensed healthcare professional
  - registered dietitian



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### Meal Modifications for Non-disability Reasons

- **Optional**
  - Religious or moral convictions
  - General health concerns
  - Personal food preferences
- Medical statement required for modifications outside ASP meal pattern



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### CSDE Webpage

#### Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-diets-in-school-nutrition-programs>

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### Questions About Medical Statement Changes

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### Water Availability for ASP

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### Water Availability for ASP

- Available without restriction
- No charge
- Not a meal component
- Students not required to take water
- Cannot offer water as choice instead of juice or milk

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### Examples of Ways to Meet Water Requirement

- Water fountain
- Water pitchers and cups
- Bottled water (no cost)

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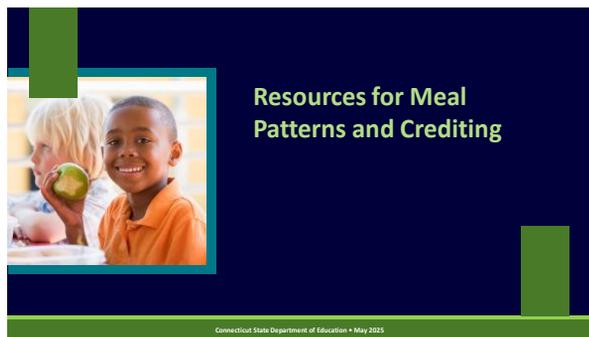
### CSDE Webpage

#### Water Availability for School Nutrition Programs

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

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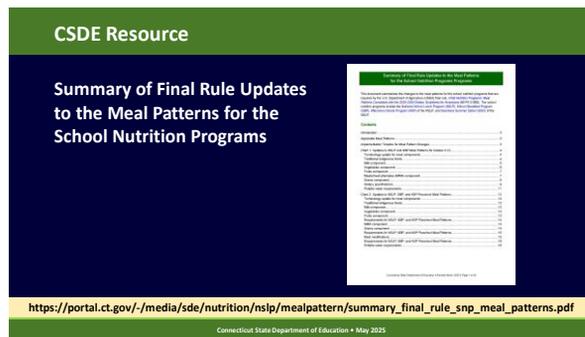
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**Resources for Meal Patterns and Crediting**

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**CSDE Resource**

**Summary of Final Rule Updates to the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs**

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/mealpattern/summary\\_final\\_rule\\_snp\\_meal\\_patterns.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/mealpattern/summary_final_rule_snp_meal_patterns.pdf)

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**CSDE Webpage**

**Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern for Grades K-12**

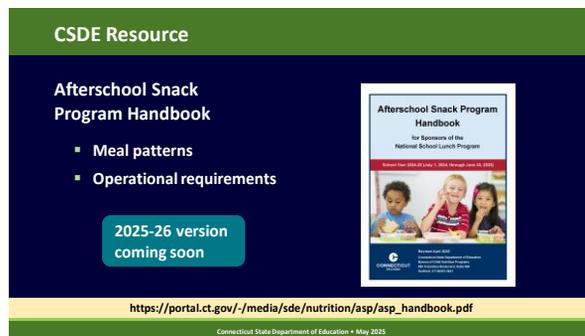
- Meal Patterns and Crediting

2025-26 meal pattern coming soon

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/afterschool-snack-program/meal-patterns-and-crediting>

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**CSDE Resource**

**Afterschool Snack Program Handbook**

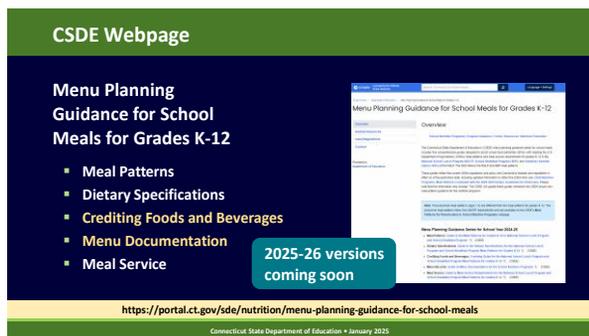
- Meal patterns
- Operational requirements

2025-26 version coming soon

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/asp\\_handbook.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/asp/asp_handbook.pdf)

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**CSDE Webpage**

**Menu Planning Guidance for School Meals for Grades K-12**

- Meal Patterns
- Dietary Specifications
- Crediting Foods and Beverages
- Menu Documentation
- Meal Service

2025-26 versions coming soon

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning-guidance-for-school-meals>

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**CSDE Resource**

**What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12**

2025-26 updates coming soon

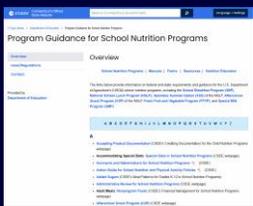
<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-pattern-training-materials>

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### CSDE Webpage

#### Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/program-guidance-school-nutrition-programs>

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### CSDE Resource

#### Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12



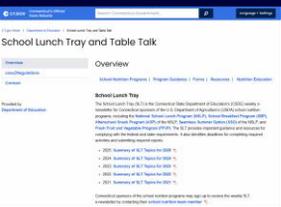
[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/resources\\_school\\_meal\\_patterns\\_grades\\_k-12.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/mealpattern/resources_school_meal_patterns_grades_k-12.pdf)

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### CSDE Webpage

#### School Lunch Tray and Table Talk



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/school-lunch-tray-and-table-talk>

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### Questions



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### Part 2 ASP Operational Requirements

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### Criteria for ASP Participation

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### Eligibility Criteria for ASP Participation

- Must participate in NSLP
- School must sponsor or operate an afterschool program
- Must complete annual application for CSDE approval



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### Afterschool Program Requirements

- Provide regularly scheduled activities
- Include educational or enrichment activities
- Meet state or local licensing requirements and health and safety standards



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### Student Eligibility

- Ages 18 and younger at start of school year
- Individuals, regardless of age, determined by CSDE to be mentally or physically disabled



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### When External Sites are Eligible for ASP

- Can be operated at external site if
  - program operated by SFA participating in NSLP
  - school where children are enrolled is area eligible



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### Criteria for External ASP Sites

- Must be sponsored by or operated by a school district
- Must be located in a jurisdiction where at least one school participates in NSLP
- Students at external site must be enrolled at area eligible school affiliated with external ASP



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### Claiming Reimbursement for External ASP Sites

- Cannot claim snacks served at external site to children who are not enrolled at area eligible school
- SFA claims snacks under sponsoring school



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### Time Restrictions

- Reimbursed only for snacks served after school on regular school day
- Extended school days
  - CDSE Operational Memorandum No. 15-11
- Notify CSDE of changes to ASP operation days



<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/memos/omearlieryears/om15-11.pdf>

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### Reimbursement Rates

#### Reimbursed at Free Rate for All Children

- Schools where 50% or more of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals

#### Reimbursed by Student Eligibility Status

- Schools where less than 50% of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals

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### Reimbursement Rates for School Year 2024-25

- Paid \$ .11
- Reduced \$ .60
- Free \$ 1.21



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### CSDE Webpage

#### Reimbursement Rates for Child Nutrition Programs

- Reimbursement Rates for School Nutrition Programs section



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/reimbursement-rates-for-child-nutrition-programs/reimbursement-rates-for-school-nutrition-programs>

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### Requirements for Pricing Programs



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### Snack Fees for Free-eligible Students

- No charge



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### Snack Fees for Reduced-price Eligible Students

- No more than 15 cents
- May offer snacks at no cost to students who qualify for reduced-price benefits



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### Snack Fees for Full-paying Students

- Established local price



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### Requirements for Non-pricing Programs



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### Non-pricing Programs

- Not site/area eligible
- Does not charge students
- Cannot use funds from NSFSAs



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### Meal Counts for Non-pricing Programs

- Based on eligibility
- Count and record snacks served each day
- Two options
  1. Use roster and claim by eligibility category
  2. Claim all snacks in paid category



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### Requirements for Site/Area Eligible Schools



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### Programs for Site/Area Eligible Schools

- $\geq 50$  percent of enrolled children eligible for free and reduced-price meals
  - Percentages calculated annually by CSDE
- Must offer all snacks free of charge



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### Application Process



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### Overview of Application Process

- Must submit at least 2 weeks before starting snack service
- May apply at any time during school year
- Must notify CSDE's ASP coordinator to obtain approval for new ASP sites



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### Application Process for Each Site

1. Complete ASP section (C1-C9) in CNP System
2. Request approval from CSDE's ASP coordinator
3. Email sample 2-week snack menu to CSDE's ASP coordinator



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### CSDE Review and Approval Process

- Review each snack menu for compliance
- Notify SFA by email if snack menu is approved or needs corrections



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### CSDE Review and Approval

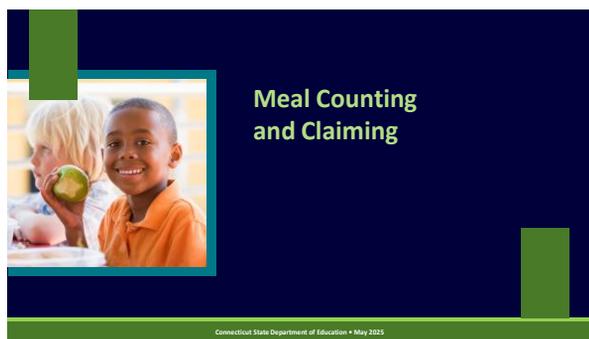
- Review each snack menu for compliance
- Notify SFA by email if snack menu is approved or needs corrections

CSDE cannot approve ASP operation until SFA submits compliant snack menu



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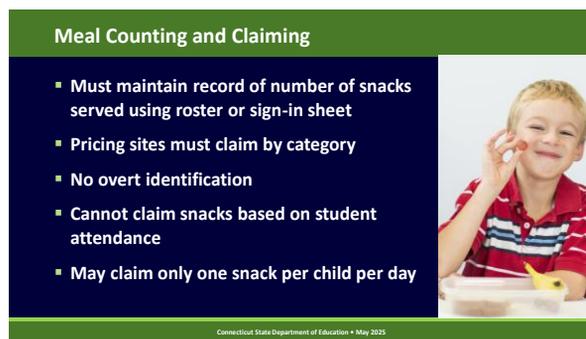
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**Meal Counting and Claiming**

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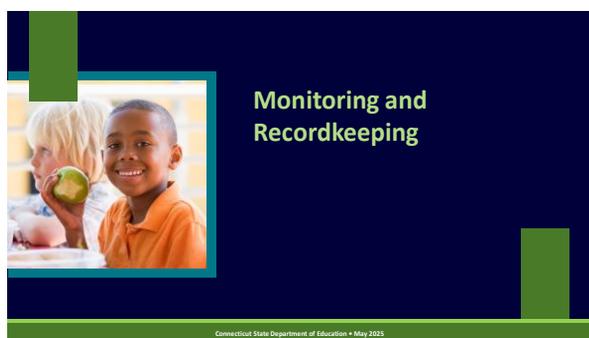


**Meal Counting and Claiming**

- Must maintain record of number of snacks served using roster or sign-in sheet
- Pricing sites must claim by category
- No overt identification
- Cannot claim snacks based on student attendance
- May claim only one snack per child per day

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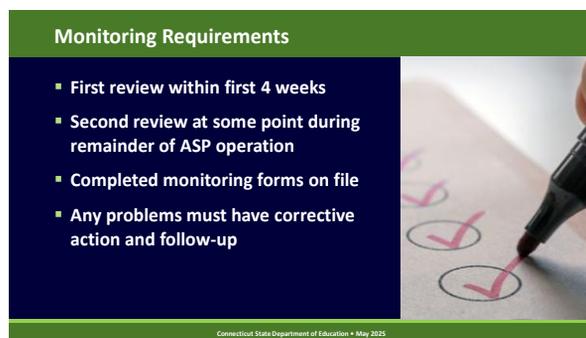
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**Monitoring and Recordkeeping**

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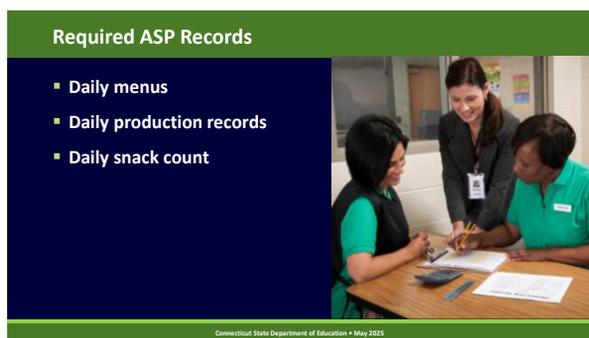


**Monitoring Requirements**

- First review within first 4 weeks
- Second review at some point during remainder of ASP operation
- Completed monitoring forms on file
- Any problems must have corrective action and follow-up

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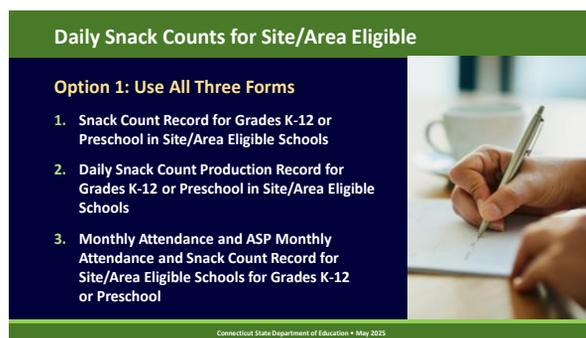


**Required ASP Records**

- Daily menus
- Daily production records
- Daily snack count

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**Daily Snack Counts for Site/Area Eligible**

**Option 1: Use All Three Forms**

1. Snack Count Record for Grades K-12 or Preschool in Site/Area Eligible Schools
2. Daily Snack Count Production Record for Grades K-12 or Preschool in Site/Area Eligible Schools
3. Monthly Attendance and ASP Monthly Attendance and Snack Count Record for Site/Area Eligible Schools for Grades K-12 or Preschool

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### Daily Snack Counts for Site/Area Eligible

**Option 2: Use Both Forms**

- Daily Snack Count Record for Grades K-12 or Preschool in Site/Area Eligible Schools
- Monthly Attendance and Snack Count Record for Site/Area Eligible



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### Daily Snack Counts for Non-site/Area Eligible

**Complete Both Forms**

1. ASP Daily Attendance and Snack Count Record for Schools that are Not Site/Area Eligible
2. ASP Monthly Attendance and Snack Count Record for Schools that are Not Site/Area Eligible



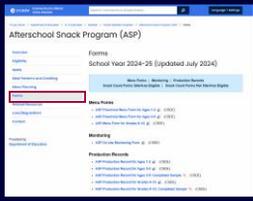
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### CSDE Webpage

**Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)**

- Forms section



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/afterschool-snack-program/forms>

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### CSDE Resource

**Records Retention Requirements for the School Nutrition Programs**



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/adminrev/records\\_retention\\_snp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nsip/adminrev/records_retention_snp.pdf)

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### Snacks for Adults



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### Fee for Adult Snacks

- Adult pricing must cover snack costs
  - Staff operating ASP
  - Other adults



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### Counting Adult Snacks

- Record counts for adult snacks on appropriate CSDE meal count form



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### Food Safety

- Must include in district's HACCP manual
- Record temperatures for Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food (TCS)



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/food-safety-for-child-nutrition-programs>

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### Civil Rights



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### Civil Rights Requirements for SFAs

- Display USDA's "And Justice For All" poster
- Ensure all civil rights requirements are met
- Provide civil rights training each year for all ASP staff
- Include USDA nondiscrimination statement on materials



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### CSDE Webpage

#### Civil Rights for Child Nutrition Programs

- Civil Rights for School Nutrition Programs



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/civil-rights-for-child-nutrition-programs/civil-rights-for-school-nutrition-programs>

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### Training Requirements



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### Training Requirements

- Must have one individual who understands rules/regulations
  - Responsible for training
- SFA and afterschool care staff share compliance responsibility
- Add training to professional standards tracking tool

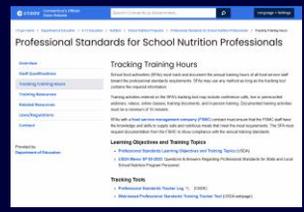


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### CSDE Webpage

#### Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/professional-standards-for-school-nutrition-professionals/tracking-training-hours>

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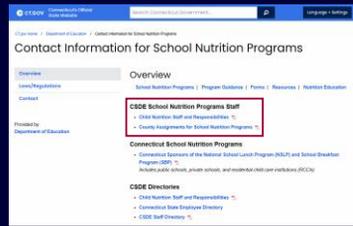
### Questions



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### Contact Information for School Nutrition Programs



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/contact-information-for-school-nutrition-programs>

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### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TRIOET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

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### CSDE Nondiscrimination Statement

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