

FINAL RULE FOR SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS

SY 24-25

Further enhanced School Meal Standards: Continues working towards a common goal of healthy children and helping them reach their full potential.

School meals are the main source of nutrition for millions of children every school day. USDA is ensuring these meals are even more nourishing, while keeping them appealing to kids.

What Stays the Same:

- Whole Grains and Whole Grain-Rich – Maintains current whole grain requirements, where at least 80% of the grain products offered per week must be whole grain-rich and the remaining grain products must be enriched.
- Milk – Maintains the current requirement to offer fat-free and low-fat (1%) milk from unflavored and flavored milks.
- Sodium – Maintains current sodium limit, Sodium Target 1A, at lunch through 2027.



Nuts & Seeds

Allows 2 oz minimum of nuts and seeds to credit for the full M/MA component in all meals.



Substituting Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast

Allows schools to continue to substitute vegetables for fruits and simplifies the vegetable variety requirement.

- Sponsors that offer vegetables at breakfast one day per school week have the option to offer a vegetable from any of the vegetable subgroups.
- Sponsors that substitute vegetables for fruits at breakfast on two or more days per school week are required to offer vegetables from at least two different subgroups.*



Meats/Meat Alternates at Breakfast

Allows sponsors the option to offer grains, M/MA, or a combination of both to meet the minimum daily ounce equivalent at breakfast.



Trans Fat Monitoring No Longer Required

Per FDA guidelines, synthetic trans fat dietary specification requirements are no longer required.

Resources

- [DGA final rule summary \(azureedge.us\)](https://azureedge.us/dga-final-rule-summary)
- [At a Glance: Comparison Chart for School Meals Programs National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program of the 2023 Proposed Rule Requirements and 2024 Final Rule Finalized Requirements \(azureedge.us\)](https://azureedge.us/at-a-glance-comparison-chart-for-school-meals)
- [Updates to the School Nutrition Standards | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.fns.usda.gov/food-and-nutrition-service)

**Note: For school year 2024-2025, Congress has provided schools the option to offer any vegetables in place of fruits at breakfast (no subgroup requirements).*



**Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**

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