

After School Care Snacks In the National School Lunch Program

FACT SHEET

Eligible Programs:

To be eligible to qualify for reimbursement under the School Lunch Program, after school care programs must meet the following three criteria:

1. A school district or residential childcare facility (RCCI) which participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must operate the after school care program. The program does not have to use the school district's personnel or regular school facilities. The school district or RCCI must retain final administrative and management responsibility for the program, including the program site. The school district or RCCI must be the party that enters into the agreement with the Nutrition Services at the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and must assume full responsibility for meeting all program requirements.
2. The purpose of the program must be to provide care in after school settings. The program must be organized to provide children with regularly scheduled activities in a setting that is structured and supervised. By "regularly scheduled" it does not mean the program must occur daily. Moreover, while eligible programs would not need to establish formal enrollment procedures, they must have a means of determining if children are present on a given day, such as a roster or sign-in sheet.
3. Eligible programs must include educational or enrichment activities in a supervised structured environment. Any extracurricular activities such as the school choir, debate team, and drama society, et al. can qualify to participate under this provision only if their basic purpose is to provide after school care as defined above. It must be emphasized that under no circumstances can organized athletic programs engaged in interscholastic sports be approved as after school care programs under this provision.

Eligible Sites:

Schools qualify for snack reimbursement based on the numbers of paid, free and reduced-price children enrolled in the school.

Snacks Claimed as Free based on "Area Eligibility"

Sites located in areas served by a school or in a RCCI, in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals:

- Are eligible to receive reimbursement at the free rate for snacks served to all children eligible for snacks, regardless of each individual child's eligibility for free or reduced price lunches.
- Must document, using the most recent October claim data, that the site is located at a school, RCCI or in the attendance area of a school where at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- Cannot charge children for snacks.

Snacks Claimed as Free/Reduced/Paid based on “Non-Area Eligibility”

Sites located in areas served by a school or in a RCCI in which less than 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits:

- Must count snacks and claim reimbursement by type: free, reduced price and paid.
- Cannot charge children for snacks claimed at the free reimbursement rate.

Non-Area Eligible Sites have the option of implementing either a Pricing Program or a Non-Pricing Program.

In a Pricing Program - students are charged a fee for the snack based on their eligibility status; free eligible students receive their snack at no charge, reduced price eligible students may be charged no more than 15 cents and paid students pay the price determined by the school/facility.

In a Non-Pricing Program - all students receive their snacks at no separate charge and snacks are claimed in their respective categories - paid, free, and reduced.

Reimbursement:

Schools may claim reimbursement for one snack, per child, per day. Children are eligible to participate through the age of 18, and if a child’s nineteenth birthday occurs during the school year, reimbursement may be claimed for that student during the remainder of the school year.

Times of Operation:

Snacks cannot be reimbursed in programs operated before or during the child’s school day. Schools and RCCIs are not eligible to receive reimbursement for snacks served on weekends or holidays, including vacation periods. Sites located in areas served by a school or in a RCCI would follow the public school’s calendar.

A child’s eligibility is based on when their scheduled school day ends, and not on whether or not the school continues in session. For example, if a kindergarten program ends at noon but the children remain in school under a care program as described above, snacks served to these children may be reimbursed under this provision. The same would be true of older children enrolled in schools that have split sessions. If children remain on-site to participate in an approved after school care program, they may receive reimbursable snacks even though the school continues to operate later into the afternoon.

After School Care Snack Meal Pattern:

Snacks served under this provision must meet the meal pattern requirements for snacks set forth in 7 CFR section 210.10. See the attached “After School Snack Meal Pattern Minimum Quantities.” In order to be reimbursed, the snacks must contain at least two different components of the following four: a serving of fluid milk, a serving of meat or meat alternate, a serving of vegetable(s) or fruits(s) or full strength vegetable or fruit juice, a serving of whole grain or enriched bread and/or cereal. Daily production records documenting what food components have been served to meet snack meal pattern requirements are required. See the attached “Daily Snack Production Record.”

Additional Requirements:

School districts and RCCIs must notify Nutrition Services at NDE of their intent to participate in the after school snack program. An explanation of the educational or enrichment component of the program must also be submitted to Nutrition Services. Each program site that is eligible to participate in the after school care snack program must complete the appropriate section of both the system and site applications of their annual on-line agreement.

Record Keeping:

At a minimum, school districts and RCCIs participating under this provision must maintain the following records.

- If all meals will be claimed free, the program site must be located in an area served by a school or RCCI in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are eligible for free and reduced price meals as indicated on the most recent Annual Membership Report.
- For all other sites, documentation of free and reduced price eligibility for children whom free and reduced price snacks are claimed must be maintained.
- Meal counts:
 - Snacks claimed as Free based on Area Eligibility:
 - ✓ Total count of snacks served daily for each site qualifying for free reimbursement for all children.
 - Snacks claimed as Free/Reduced/Paid based on Non-Area Eligibility:
 - ✓ Daily snack count by individual student name. See attached Monthly Snack Participation for Snacks Claimed as Free/Reduced/Paid.
- Documentation of individual children's attendance on a daily basis.
- Completed Daily Production Records to document compliance with meal pattern requirements.
- On-Site Review for After School Care Snack Programs (2 required annually). See attached on-site review form.

Chart 2: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Afterschool Snack Service (NSLP Afterschool Snacks) Meal Pattern for K-12 Children (Ages 6-18)

Select Two of the Five Components for a Reimbursable Snack	
Meal Components¹	Minimum Quantities²
Fluid Milk ³	8 fluid ounces
Meats/Meat Alternates ⁴	1 ounce equivalent
Vegetables ⁵	¾ cup
Fruits ⁵	¾ cup
Grains ⁶	1 ounce equivalent

- 1 Must serve two of the five components for a reimbursable NSLP afterschool snack. Only one of the two components may be a beverage.
- 2 May need to serve larger portions to children ages 13 through 18 to meet their nutritional needs.
- 3 Must be fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1 percent fat or less). Milk may be unflavored or flavored.
- 4 Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A to Part 226 of this Chapter. Effective July 1, 2025, yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams of added sugars per ounce) . Information on crediting meats/meat alternates may be found in FNS guidance.
- 5 Juice must be pasteurized, full-strength juice. No more than half of the weekly fruit or vegetable offerings may be in the form of juice.
- 6 At least 80 percent of grains offered weekly (by ounce equivalents) must be whole grain-rich, as defined in § 210.2, and the remaining grains items offered must be enriched. Grain-based desserts may not be used to meet the grains requirement. Effective July 1, 2025, breakfast cereal must have no more than 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce. Information on crediting grain items may be found in FNS guidance.

CACFP Snack (Must serve at least 2 meal components for a reimbursable meal)

Food Components and Food Items	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ¹ (At-Risk afterschool programs & Emergency Shelters)
Fluid Milk²	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup	1 cup
Meat/meat alternatives				
Lean Meat, poultry, or fish	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Tofu, soy product, or alternate protein product ⁹	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Cheese	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Large Egg	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Cooked dry beans or peas	1/8 cup	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/4 cup
Peanut butter or soy nut butter or another seed butter	1 Tbsp.	1 Tbsp.	2 Tbsp.	2 Tbsp.
Yogurt, plain or flavored, sweetened or unsweetened ¹⁰	2 ounces or 1/4 cup	2 ounces or 1/4 cup	4 ounces or 1/2 cup	4 ounces or 1/2 cup
Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts or seeds	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Vegetables^{3,8}	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	3/4 cup
Fruits^{3,8}	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	3/4 cup
Grain Items (oz equivalent)^{4,6,7}				
Whole grain rich or enriched bread	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Whole grain rich or enriched bread product such as biscuit, roll or muffin	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Whole grain rich, enriched or fortified ready to eat breakfast cereal (dry/cold) ^{6,7}	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Flakes	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup	1 cup
Puffed Cereal	3/4 cup	3/4 cup	1 1/4 cup	1 1/4 cup
Granola	1/8 cup	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/4 cup

IMPORTANT—Superscript Notations

1—Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years to meet their nutritional needs. (Offer versus serve is an option **only** for at risk afterschool participants.)

2—Must be unflavored **whole** milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1%) or unflavored fat free (skim) for children 2 to 5 years old. Must be unflavored low fat or unflavored fat free, or flavored fat free or low-fat (1%) milk for children 6 years old and older and adults.

3—Pasteurized full strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.

4—At least one grain serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich. Grain based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement.

5—**Breakfast only** : Meat and Meat Alternates may be used to meet the entire grains requirement a maximum of three (3) times a week. One ounce of meat and meat alternates is equal to one serving of grains. (1-5 year olds — 1/2 oz meat/cheese, 1 Tbsp nut butters, 2 oz 1/4 cup yogurt, 1/2 egg or 1/8 cup cooked dry beans or peas; 6-18 years — 1 oz meat/cheese, 2 Tbsp nut butters, 4 oz 1/2 cup yogurt, 1/2 egg or 1/4 cup cooked dry beans or peas)

6—Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of grains.

7—Through September 30, 2025, breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of total sugars per dry ounce. **Beginning October 1, 2025, breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce.**

8—**Lunch and Supper only**: A vegetable may be used to meet the entire fruit requirement. When two vegetables are served at lunch or supper, two different kinds of vegetables must be served.

9—Alternate protein products must meet requirements in Appendix A to Part 226. Information on crediting meat/meat alternates may be found in FNS guidance.

10—Through September 30, 2025, yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces. **Beginning October 1, 2025, yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams of sugars per ounce).**

11—Nuts/Seeds—Serve with caution to children under age 4 and older adult participants in the CACFP.

After School Snack Weekly Production Record

Name of Site:

Dates:

(Example: May 6-10, 20XX)

Instructions: Complete each section of the production record. Copies of the completed record must be retained.

Requirements:

1. Two different food components in the required portion size must be served.
2. Students must take both food components. There is **no offer versus serve option in the After School Snack Program.**
3. Indicate how the food item portion size contributes to meeting meal pattern requirement.
4. Identify whole grain-rich items with "WGR".

Number of Snacks Ordered						Actual Number of Snacks Served					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Snack						Children					
						Staff					
						Total Snacks Served					

Snack	Component Name of each food component item. Must serve two different food components.	Planned Serving Sizes <small>With meal pattern contribution</small>	Total Amount Prepared	Food Temperatures Kitchen /Site	Leftovers/ Comments <small>(Record leftovers amounts and comments)</small>
Monday Snack	Food Component 1 Item:				
	Food Component 2 Item:				
Tuesday Snack	Food Component 1 Item:				
	Food Component 2 Item:				
Wednesday Snack	Food Component 1 Item:				
	Food Component 2 Item:				
Thursday Snack	Food Component 1 Item:				
	Food Component 2 Item:				
Friday Snack	Food Component 1 Item:				
	Food Component 2 Item:				

On-Site Review Summary for After School Care Snack Program

Each site operating an After School Snack Program must be reviewed by the school district or residential childcare facility (RCCI) two times per year under 7CFR 210.9(c)(7). The first review must be completed by the school district or RCCI during the first four weeks the snack program is in operation. The second review can be any time during the remainder of the school year. If the school district or RCCI has more than one after school care snack program each site must be reviewed twice. The completed reviews should be kept on file at the school district or RCCI with other records pertaining to the After School Care Snack Program.

School District _____ Review Date: _____

Feeding Site: _____

Check type of review completed:

_____ Conducted within the first four weeks of snack operation.
Date site started serving snack for this school year: _____

_____ Second review of the school year.

1. Describe the educational and/or enrichment element of this site's after school snack program:

2. What method best describes the counting method used for the after school snacks?

Check one:

- _____ 1. Roster/Check off
- _____ 2. Ticket/Tally
- _____ 3. Electronic Device
- _____ 4. Other (describe): _____

3. What method is used for taking attendance?

Check one:

- _____ 1. Roster/Check off
- _____ 2. Ticket/Tally
- _____ 3. Electronic Devices
- _____ 4. Other (describe): _____

3. Are production records maintained daily?

_____ Yes _____ No

4. Do production records indicate snacks meet meal pattern requirements for both components and quantities?

_____ Yes _____ No

If no, identify problems and document corrective action:

Signature of Person Conducting Review

Date Review Completed

Must serve 2 of the 5 components

FRUIT

3/4 cup

- Grapes
- Sliced banana
- Orange wedges
- Strawberries
- Mixed berries
- Cantaloupe
- Peaches*
- Pears*
- Tropical fruit mix*
- Baked apple / 1 medium apple
- 1/2 cup raisins
- Fruit smoothie*
- 100% pineapple juice*

*Canned fruit should be canned in light syrup, water or fruit juice.

*No more than 1/2 of weekly fruit offerings may be in the form of juice.

VEGETABLES

3/4 cup

- Broccoli, cauliflower florets
- Cherry tomatoes
- Baby carrots
- Cucumber coins
- Bell pepper slices
- Snap peas
- Celery sticks
- Green beans
- Pico de gallo
- Cowboy caviar
- 100% chickpea pasta
- Veggie spring rolls (3/4 cup veggie served)
- Tomato juice*

*No more than 1/2 of weekly vegetable offerings may be in the form of juice.

GRAINS

1 oz. ed*

- 0.8 oz. WGR wheat or saltine crackers
- 1 oz. WGR Graham or animal crackers
- 1 oz. WGR tortilla chips or pretzels
- 1 oz. WGR toast, bagel, or English muffin
- 1/2 cup brown rice or oatmeal
- 1 oz. WGR cereal or granola*
- 1.2 oz. WGR pancake or waffle
- 2 oz. WGR blueberry muffin

≥ 80% of weekly grains must be WGR; remaining grains must be enriched.

Grain-based desserts may not be used.
*Breakfast cereal must have ≤ 6 grams of added sugar per oz.

MEAT/ MEAT ALTERNATE

1 oz. ed*

- 1 oz. tuna or ham salad
- 1 oz. sliced turkey
- 1/2 egg
- 1 oz. cheese stick or cubes
- 2 Tbsp peanut or sun butter
- 1/4 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1/4 cup hummus
- 2 Tbsp refried beans + 0.5 oz. shredded cheese
- 1 oz. cashews
- 1 oz. pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup low-fat yogurt*

*Yogurt must have ≤ 12 grams of added sugars per 6 oz. (2 grams of added sugar per oz.).

FLUID MILK

8 fl. oz.*

8 oz. fluid milk*

Smoothie made with 8 oz. fluid milk*

*Fluid milk must be fat-free or low-fat (1%); may be flavored or unflavored.

*Fluid milk may be offered as 1 of the 2 other component must not be a beverage.

WEEK 1

M

WGR Pumpkin muffin
2 oz. = 1 oz. eq.



100% Apple juice
3/4 cup / 6 fl. oz.

T

Broccoli and cauliflower florets
3/4 cup



Veggie yogurt dip
1/2 cup yogurt = 1 oz. eq.

W

WGR Cereal
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

R

Apple slices
1 medium apple



Sunflower seed butter
2 Tbsp = 1 oz. eq.

F

Cucumber coins
3/4 cup



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

WEEK 2

M

WGR tortilla chips
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.



2 Tbsp refried beans +
0.5 oz. shredded
cheese = 1 oz. eq.

T

Bell pepper slices
3/4 cup



WGR saltine crackers
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.

W

Mixed berries
3/4 cup



Low-fat yogurt
1/2 cup = 1 oz. eq.

R

Snap peas
3/4 cup



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

F

Mandarin oranges
3/4 cup



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

WEEK 3

M

Hulled sunflower seeds
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

T

Baked apple
1 medium apple



Brown sugar cinnamon
oatmeal
1/2 cup = 1 oz. eq.

W

Cherry tomatoes
3/4 cup



Cheese stick
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.

R

Bananas
2 medium bananas



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

F

Baby carrots
3/4 cup



Animal crackers
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.

M

WGR cornbread muffin
1.2 oz. = 1 oz. eq.



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

T

Celery sticks
3/4 cup



Peanut butter
2 Tbsp = 1 oz. eq.

W

Strawberries
3/4 cup



1% Milk
8 fl. oz.

R

Cowboy caviar
3/4 cup



WGR tortilla chips
1 oz. = 1 oz. eq.

F

Canned peaches
3/4 cup



Low-fat cottage
cheese
1/4 cup = 1 oz. eq.

*Note: Offer versus Serve is not allowed with the Afterschool Snack Program



CREDITABLE AND NON-CREDITABLE AFTERSCHOOL SNACK FOODS

FRUIT



Fresh, frozen, dried, or canned in light syrup, water, or fruit juice

100% juice and 100% juice blends

VEGETABLES



100% juice

Juice blends if blend of 100% juice

Dried beans and peas count as either vegetable or meat/meat alternate, but not both

Olives and pickles are high in sodium; limit usage

GRAINS



Cereal - dry or cooked that contains ≤ 6 grams of added sugar per oz.

Breads, pasta, rice, and crackers, including graham and unfrosted animal crackers

Pretzels and corn chips

MEAT/ MEAT ALTERNATE



Plain or flavored yogurt that contains ≤ 12 grams of added sugars per 6 oz. or 2 grams per oz.

Cottage cheese

Dried beans and peas count as either vegetable or meat/meat alternate, not both

Peanuts, nuts, seeds, or butters made from them

Cheese, natural or processed

FLUID MILK



Fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk, flavored or unflavored

Smoothies must contain at least 2 oz. of fluid milk per serving to credit toward the milk component. If the smoothie contains less than the minimum, additional fluid milk must be offered.

Bacon, bacon bits

Following products without CN label: cheese (imitation, canned, powdered), canned pasta or soup, pepperoni, sauce

Cream cheese

Frozen commercial yogurt bars

Yogurt-covered fruit or nuts

Cereal - dry or cooked that exceeds 6 grams of added sugar per oz.

Cereal bars

Granola bars, grain and fruit bars

Cookies, bars, brownies, cake, crisps

Grain-based desserts, see **Exhibit A**

Potato or vegetable chips or sticks

Fruit juice cocktails

100% fruit juice when served with fluid milk

Fruit flavored beverages

Powders, punches, lemonade, nectar

Fruit leather

Fruit rollups, fruit shapes or gummies

Fruit in cookies, pastries, or commercial yogurt

Creditable

NOT Creditable

This is not an inclusive list and is intended to provide ideas for NSLP afterschool snacks

Monthly Snack Participation Record For Snacks Claimed as Free/Reduced/Paid

Site: _____ A - Absent S - Snack Participation N - Present, No Snack

Month & Year: _____ Date: _____

Child's Full Name	A - Absent	S - Snack Participation	N - Present, No Snack																	
1																				
2																				
3																				
4																				
5																				
6																				
7																				
8																				
9																				
10																				
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19																				
20																				
Daily Totals																				
Free																				
Reduced																				
Paid																				
Adults – Enter # of adults daily																				

Number of Days Snacks Served: _____

Number of Reimbursable Snacks Served for the Month Free: _____ Reduced: _____ Paid: _____

Signature of person completing form: _____ Date: _____