



# Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast



School Breakfast



Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12)



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## Dear School Nutrition Professionals,

Meats and meat alternates can be healthy and delicious options at school breakfast. Meats and Meat Alternates in the school meals program include: beef; pork; poultry; seafood; eggs; cheese; yogurt; beans, peas, and lentils; tofu; tempeh; nuts; and seeds. As a program operator, you may choose to offer meats and meat alternates at school breakfast!



### Why do some schools choose to offer meats and meat alternates at school breakfast?




- Offering meats and meat alternates can be a strategy to reduce added sugars at school breakfast.
- Meats and meat alternates are popular menu options among students.
- Meats and meat alternates provide protein, a nutrient that is an important part of a healthy eating pattern.
- Some meats and meat alternates also provide B vitamins, iron, zinc, and other nutrients.





# What are some easy meal patterns to follow?

The school breakfast meal pattern provides you with the flexibility to offer meats and meat alternates with or without grains.<sup>1</sup> There is no limit on the number of times you may offer meats and meat alternates at breakfast during the week.

School Breakfast Meal Pattern for K-12	
Meal Component	Amount
 <p><b>Grains<sup>2</sup> and/or Meats/Meat Alternates</b></p>	1 oz eq daily and 7-10 oz eq weekly
 <p><b>Fruits and/or Vegetables<sup>3</sup></b></p>	1 cup daily and 5 cups weekly
 <p><b>Milk</b></p>	1 cup daily and 5 cups weekly



**oz eq** = ounce equivalent(s)

<sup>1</sup>Information about the School Breakfast Meal pattern is available on the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) website: [fns.usda.gov/sbp/meal-pattern-chart](https://fns.usda.gov/sbp/meal-pattern-chart).

<sup>2</sup>Schools must meet the whole grains requirement that at least 80 percent of the ounce equivalents of grains offered throughout the week must be whole grain-rich. This means that a product must contain at least 50 percent whole grains; any grain ingredients that are not whole grain must be enriched, bran, or germ. The remaining grain items offered must be enriched.




<sup>3</sup>Schools choosing to offer vegetables at breakfast 1 day per school week have the option to offer any vegetable, including a starchy vegetable. Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit on 2 or more days are required to offer vegetables from at least two different subgroups.



# Sample School Breakfast Meals Featuring Meats and Meat Alternates for Grades K–12




1

## Sample Meal 1: Combination

Meal Component	Amount
 <p>Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates</p>	2 oz eq (Meats/ Meat Alternates)
 <p>Fruits and/or Vegetables</p>	1 cup
 <p>Milk</p>	1 cup

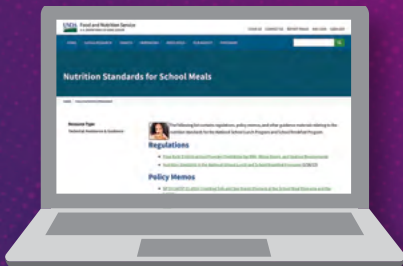
2

## Sample Meal 2: Combination

Meal Component	Amount
 <p>Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates</p>	1 oz eq (Grains) 1 oz eq (Meats/ Meat Alternates)
 <p>Fruits and/or Vegetables</p>	1 cup
 <p>Milk</p>	1 cup



oz eq = ounce equivalent(s)



**Meal components** are groups of foods in a reimbursable school breakfast. The charts above show sample meals with different ways to offer meats and meat alternates to meet the Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates component. The combination of the meals can be used throughout the week.





## What are things to consider during menu planning?

School breakfast menus must meet weekly dietary specifications for **calories, saturated fat, sodium,** and **added sugars.**

1

Check the nutrition information for the foods you plan to offer as part of school breakfast. Work with vendors to purchase meats and meat alternates that are lower in saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars.

2

To keep school breakfast menus within the weekly calorie ranges and added sugar limits, offer items that are lower in added sugars. For example, compare yogurt types and brands to find options that are lower in added sugars.\*

3

Plan weekly menus to balance breakfast menu items that are higher in saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars with options that are lower in these nutrients.

4

Offer a variety of meats and meat alternates over the course of the week. See the sample menus on pages 8 and 9 for ideas.

\*By July 1, 2025, the following products must meet the added sugars limits:

- Yogurts must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces.
- Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces.
- Flavored milk must contain no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces.

By July 1, 2027, in addition to product-based limits described above, schools must also limit added sugars to less than 10 percent of calories across the week.

# Checking the Nutrition Information of Breakfast Items

Use the Nutrition Facts label to compare the calories, saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars in packaged meats and meat alternates. Choosing products that are lower in these nutrients can help you provide healthier breakfasts for students.

Brand A Lower Sodium Ham, Cooked, Sliced

Nutrition Facts	
12 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>1¼ oz (34g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 1g	<b>1%</b>
Saturated Fat > 0.5g	<b>0%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 18mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 290mg	<b>13%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 1g	<b>0%</b>
Dietary Fiber 0g <b>0%</b>	
Total Sugars 1g	
Includes 1g Added Sugars	
<b>Protein</b> 6g	<b>8%</b>

Brand B Ham, Cooked, Sliced

Nutrition Facts	
12 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>1¼ oz (34g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 2g	<b>2%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	<b>0%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 18mg	<b>6%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 450mg	<b>20%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 1g	<b>0%</b>
Dietary Fiber 0g <b>0%</b>	
Total Sugars 1g	
Includes 1g Added Sugars	
<b>Protein</b> 6g	<b>8%</b>

→  
Compare  
←

Brand A Greek, Non-Fat Yogurt, Strawberry 4 oz

Nutrition Facts	
1 serving per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>4 oz (113g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>
Saturated Fat 0g <b>0%</b>	
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 6mg	<b>2%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 45mg	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 16g	<b>5%</b>
Dietary Fiber 0g <b>0%</b>	
Total Sugars 13g	
Includes 8g Added Sugars	
<b>Protein</b> 9g	<b>18%</b>

Brand B Greek, Non-Fat Yogurt, Strawberry 4 oz

Nutrition Facts	
1 serving per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>4 oz (113g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>
Saturated Fat 0g <b>0%</b>	
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 8mg	<b>1%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 45mg	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 15g	<b>6%</b>
Dietary Fiber 0g <b>0%</b>	
Total Sugars 14g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	
<b>Protein</b> 10g	<b>20%</b>

→  
Compare  
←



# What meats and meat alternates are creditable at breakfast?

See the chart below for examples of meats and meat alternates that can be offered at breakfast.

Creditable means how a food counts toward the required meal component for reimbursement. For example, ½ cup (4 ounces) of yogurt credits as 1-ounce equivalent meat alternate.

Creditable Meats and Meat Alternates		
Meats and Meat Alternates	½ ounce equivalent =	1 ounce equivalent =
Beans, cooked (black beans, pinto beans, kidney beans, refried beans, etc.)	⅛ cup	¼ cup
Beef, ground, cooked (no more than 30 percent fat)	½ ounce	1 ounce
Canadian bacon, cooked	½ ounce	1 ounce
Cheese, natural or processed (mozzarella, American, cheddar, etc.)	½ ounce	1 ounce
Chicken, cooked, breaded patty or tender	Creditable with a Child Nutrition (CN) label or Product Formulation Statement (PFS) signed by the manufacturer.	
Cottage cheese	⅛ cup (1 ounce)	¼ cup (2 ounces)
Egg	¼ large egg	½ large egg
Fish (salmon, sardines, etc.), cooked	½ ounce	1 ounce
Ham, water-added, cooked (97 percent fat-free)	¾ ounce	1¼ ounce
Nut or seed butter (peanut butter, sunflower seed butter, soy nut butter, etc.)	1 tablespoon	2 tablespoons
Nuts and seeds	½ ounce	1 ounce
Sausage, pork (no binders, cooked, lean meat)	½ ounce	1 ounce
<sup>4</sup> Tempeh, commercially prepared	½ ounce	1 ounce
Tofu, commercially prepared (containing at least 5 g of protein per 2.2 ounce portion)	⅛ cup (1.1 ounces)	¼ cup (2.2 ounces)
Turkey bacon, cooked	Creditable with a CN label or PFS signed by the manufacturer.	
Turkey, ground, cooked	½ ounce	1 ounce
Yogurt (regular, Greek, soy, etc.)	¼ cup (2 ounces)	½ cup (4 ounces)

<sup>4</sup>For tempeh that contains only soybeans (or other beans, peas, or lentils); water; tempeh culture; vinegar; seasonings; and herbs. Tempeh made with other ingredients are creditable with a Child Nutrition (CN) label or a Product Formulation Statement (PFS) signed by the manufacturer.



Learn more about Child Nutrition (CN) labels and Product Formulation Statements (PFS) at [fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling/food-manufacturersindustry](https://fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling/food-manufacturersindustry).

# What are some foods that are not creditable at breakfast?

Sometimes, the foods below are misunderstood to credit as meats or meat alternates. However, these foods are not creditable as meats or meat alternates.

✘ Cream cheese

✘ Salt pork

✘ Egg whites

✘ Scrapple

✘ Imitation bacon products (such as bacon bits and bacon liquid flavors)

✘ Yogurt covered breakfast bars

✘ Pork bacon




For crediting information on other meats and meat alternates, refer to the "Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates in the Child Nutrition Program" ([fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-meats-meat-alternates-child-nutrition-tip-sheet](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-meats-meat-alternates-child-nutrition-tip-sheet)) and "Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Program" ([fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs)).




# Menu Planner for K-12

## Cafeteria Meal Service, Without Offer Versus Serve (OVS)


The menu planner below shows examples of different breakfast menus that meet meal pattern requirements. Some food items on the menu provide more than 2 ounce equivalents of grains, meats, meat alternates, or a combination. This means that more than 2 ounce equivalents of grains, meats, meat alternates, or a combination are offered at breakfast on some days, and more than 10 ounce equivalents of grains, meats, or meat alternates are offered over the week. This "extra" food counts toward weekly dietary specifications.

Meal Component	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
 <p><b>Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates</b></p>	<p><b>Cheese Grits (WG)</b> (1 cup cooked grits = 2 oz eq grains) (1 oz cheese = 1 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Ham and Cheese Sandwich (WG)</b> (2 slices bread = 2 oz eq grains) (1 slice ham = ½ oz eq meats and 1 slice cheese = ½ oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Scrambled Eggs</b> (¼ cup = 2 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Muffin (WG)</b> (1 oz eq grains) <b>Strawberries with Yogurt Smoothie</b> (8 fl oz smoothie made with ½ cup of yogurt = 1 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Pancake (WG)</b> (1 oz eq grains) <b>Turkey Sausage*</b> (1 oz eq meats)</p>
 <p><b>Fruits and/or Vegetables</b></p>	<p><b>Cantaloupe</b> (½ cup) <b>Raisins</b> (¼ cup credits as ½ cup fruits)</p>	<p><b>Orange Wedges</b> (½ cup) <b>Applesauce</b> (½ cup)</p>	<p><b>100% Fruit Juice</b> (½ cup) <b>Black Bean Salsa</b> (½ cup)</p>	<p><b>Strawberries with Yogurt Smoothie</b> (8 fl oz smoothie made with ½ cup strawberry puree = ½ cup fruits) <b>Apple Slices</b> (½ cup)</p>	<p><b>Grapes</b> (½ cup) <b>Oven-Baked Sweet Potato Fries</b> (½ cup)</p>
 <p><b>Milk</b></p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>




**Choice of Milk:**  

- low-fat (1%) milk
- fat-free (skim) milk



**WG = whole grain-rich**



**oz eq = ounce equivalent**

fl oz = fluid ounces







\*Remember, crediting of some processed food products may vary. Verify the crediting of foods you wish to include on your menus by using the Food Buying Guide, a standardized recipe, CN label, or PFS.



# Menu Planner for K-12

## Classroom Friendly, Without Offer Versus Serve (OVS)

The menu planner below shows examples of different breakfast menus that can be offered in different environments such as breakfast-in-the-classroom. Some food items on the menu provide more than 2 ounce equivalents of grains, meats, meat alternates, or a combination. This means that more than 2 ounce equivalents of grains, meats, meat alternates, or a combination are offered at breakfast on some days, and more than 10 ounce equivalents of grains, meats, or meat alternates are offered over the week. This "extra" food counts toward weekly dietary specifications.

Meal Component	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
 <p><b>Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates</b></p>	<p><b>Hard-Boiled Egg</b> (1 large egg = 2 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Granola (WG)</b> (¼ cup = 1 oz eq grains)</p> <p><b>Yogurt</b> (½ cup = 1 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Graham Cracker Seed Butter Sandwich (WG)</b> (2 graham crackers = 1 oz eq grains) (2 tablespoons of sunflower seed butter = 1 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Ready-To-Eat Cereal (WG)</b> (1 cup = 1 oz eq grains)</p> <p><b>Cheese Stick</b> (1 oz eq meat alternates)</p>	<p><b>Chicken Slider (WG)</b> (1 bun and breading on chicken = 1½ oz eq grains) (1 baked and breaded chicken patty* = 1 oz eq meats)</p>
 <p><b>Fruits and/or Vegetables</b></p>	<p><b>100% Fruit Juice</b> (½ cup)</p> <p><b>Apple Slices</b> (½ cup)</p>	<p><b>Mixed Berries</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Pear</b> (½ cup)</p> <p><b>Peaches</b> (½ cup)</p>	<p><b>Mandarin Oranges</b> (½ cup)</p> <p><b>Fruit Cocktail</b> (½ cup)</p>	<p><b>Grapes</b> (½ cup)</p> <p><b>100% Fruit Juice</b> (½ cup)</p>
 <p><b>Milk</b></p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>	<p><b>Choice of Milk</b> (1 cup)</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p><b>Choice of Milk:</b> • low-fat (1%) milk • fat-free (skim) milk</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p><b>WG = whole grain-rich</b></p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p><b>oz eq = ounce equivalent</b></p> </div> </div>					

fl oz = fluid ounces

\*Remember, crediting of some processed food products may vary. Verify the crediting of foods you wish to include on your menus by using the Food Buying Guide, a standardized recipe, CN label, or PFS.

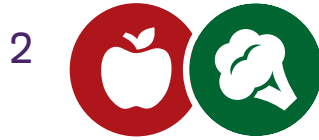
# Meats and Meat Alternates at Breakfast Using Offer Versus Serve Meal Service

When using Offer Versus Serve meal service at breakfast, you must offer at least three meal components and four food items.

Meal components are groups of foods in a reimbursable meal. The three required meal components to offer at breakfast are:



**Milk**



**Fruits and/or Vegetables**



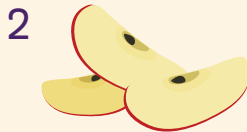
**Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates**

Food items are foods offered within a meal component. For example, an egg is a food item that is a meat alternate, which can contribute toward the grains and/or meats/meat alternates requirement at breakfast.

Offer at least four food items in the minimum required amount from the three required meal components (milk, fruits and/or vegetables, and grains and/or meats/meat alternates). For example, this menu offers five food items from the three required meal components.



**Choice of Milk**  
(1 cup)



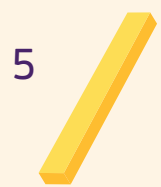
**Apple Slices**  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)



**Strawberries**  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)



**Whole-Grain Muffin**  
(1 ounce equivalent)



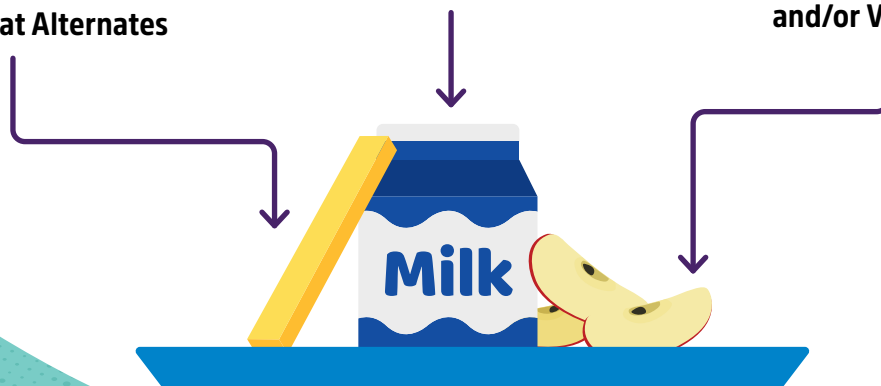
**Cheese Stick**  
(1 ounce equivalent)

Students **must take** at least three food items (including at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of fruit and/or vegetable) for the meal to be reimbursable. For example, the student could select a reimbursable meal of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup apples, 1 ounce equivalent cheese stick, and 1 cup of milk. The student could select other reimbursable meals from the same menu as well.

**1 ounce equivalent Grains and/or Meats and/or Meat Alternates**

**1 cup Milk**

**$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Fruits and/or Vegetables**



# Can a food count as more than one food item?

In some cases, foods may count as more than one food item at breakfast. Here are some examples:

Example Food	How this Food May Count as Two Food Items
<p>The food has 2 oz eq grains</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Large Muffin (4 oz = 2 oz eq)</p>	<p>You may decide that this 2 oz eq muffin counts as two food items. This muffin contains two servings, each of which are 1 oz eq grains.</p>
<p>The food has 2 oz eq grains and/or meats/meat alternates</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Egg Sandwich (1 oz eq bread + 1 oz eq egg)</p>	<p>You may decide that this sandwich is two food items. This sandwich contains one serving of 1 oz eq grains and one serving of 1 oz eq meat alternates, which counts toward the grains and/or meats/meat alternates requirement.</p>
<p>The food has ½ cup of fruits or vegetables and at least 1 oz eq of grains and/or meats/meat alternates</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (½ cup fruit and 1 oz eq yogurt)</p>	<p>You may decide that this smoothie is two food items. This smoothie contains one serving of ½ cup fruits and one serving of 1 oz eq meat alternates, which counts toward the grains and/or meats/meat alternates requirement.</p>

In the examples above, it is up to you to determine if the food item (e.g., the egg sandwich) will count as one or two food item(s) at the meal. It is important that menu planners are consistent in how they count food items at breakfast. You must ensure that staff and students understand what food items need to be selected to create a reimbursable school breakfast. You can provide training for teachers and school nutrition staff and post signs for students so everyone knows what combination of foods may be selected.

Help students to quickly select the foods in the breakfast line that make up a reimbursable meal with these OVS posters at: [fns.usda.gov/tn/offer-versus-serve-national-school-lunch-program-posters](https://fns.usda.gov/tn/offer-versus-serve-national-school-lunch-program-posters).





# Sample Breakfast Menus

Below are some examples of how to offer meats and meat alternates under OVS meal service:

**Sample Breakfast Menu 1:** Offer Versus Serve Breakfast Menu for K-12 in the Classroom (offering at least four food items from the three meal components).

**Students:** Choose the smoothie and one other food item **OR** choose the apple slices and two other food items.



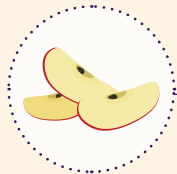
**Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie\***  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup yogurt and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup blueberry puree)

**Two food items:** 1 meat alternate counting toward the Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates component (yogurt) + 1 fruit (blueberry)



**Muffin** (1 ounce equivalent)

**One food item:** 1 grain



**Apple Slices** ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)

**One food item:** 1 fruit



**Choice of Milk** (1 cup)

**One food item:** 1 milk

## Reimbursable Student Selections

A few examples of reimbursable meals the student could select include (there are other OVS combinations possible):

### Three food items

- Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (two items) and Muffin, or
- Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (two items) and Milk, or
- Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (two items) and Apple Slices, or
- Apple Slices, Muffin, and Milk.

### More than three food items

- Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (two items), Muffin, and Milk, or
- Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (two items), Apple Slices, Muffin, and Milk, or
- 2-Blueberries and Yogurt Smoothie (two items).

The students **must take**  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of fruit. In this example, they can choose either the smoothie or the apple slices to meet the requirement.



**Can students choose two of the same food item (such as two cheese sticks) with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of fruit and/or vegetable and have a reimbursable breakfast under OVS?** Yes, but program operators can encourage students to choose a variety of foods at breakfast through nutrition education.

Remember, students must select at least three food items including a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of fruits or vegetables.

\*Fruit puree in smoothies counts toward the weekly juice limit.

**Sample Breakfast Menu 2:** Breakfast Menu for K-12 in the Cafeteria (offering at least four food items from the three meal components).

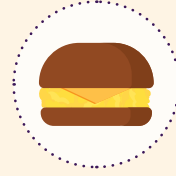
**Choose one:**



**Orange Wedges** (1 cup)

**Two food items:** 2 fruits

**Choose at least one:**



**Egg Sandwich**

**Two food items:** 1 grain (bun) + 1 meat alternate counting toward the Grains and/or Meats/Meat Alternates component (egg)



**Ready-to-eat Cereal** (1 cup)

**One food item:** 1 grain



**Choice of Milk** (1 cup)

**One food item:** 1 milk

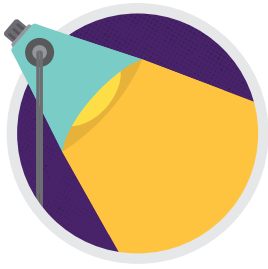
## Reimbursable Student Selections

In the example above, the program operator has determined that the orange wedges and egg sandwich each count as two food items. A few examples of reimbursable meals the student could select include (there are other OVS combinations possible):

- Orange Wedges (two items) and Egg Sandwich (two items), or
- Orange Wedges (two items), Egg Sandwich (two items), and Milk, or
- Orange Wedges (two items), Egg Sandwich (two items), Cereal, and Milk.

In this example, the students do not have the option to choose between two fruits, so they **must** take the orange wedges. Since the orange wedges count as two food items, the student must choose at least one additional item from the menu.

Learn more about the Offer Versus Serve Guidance for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program at: [fns.usda.gov/updated-offer-vs-serve-guidance-nslp-and-sbp-beginning-sy2015-16](https://fns.usda.gov/updated-offer-vs-serve-guidance-nslp-and-sbp-beginning-sy2015-16).



# School Spotlights: Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast



## Breakfast in the Classroom

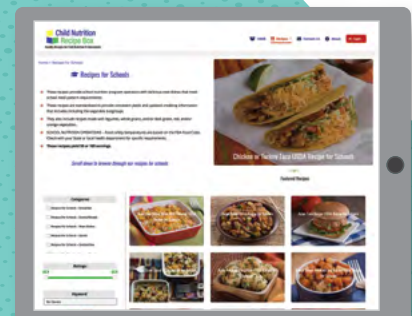
Meats or meat alternates are served in the classroom 4 out of 5 days a week in **Greeley-Evans Weld County School District** in **Colorado**. Cheese, yogurt, breakfast sandwiches (turkey ham and cheese), and an egg and cheese breakfast boat are the main offerings. The cheese and the yogurt credit as 1 ounce equivalent of meat alternates and, on average, the sandwiches credit 1½ ounce equivalents meats and meat alternates, and 1½ ounce equivalents grains. Each breakfast boat credits as 1 ounce equivalent meat alternates and 1½ ounce equivalents grains. The egg and cheese breakfast boats come individually wrapped and are warmed to serve in the classroom.



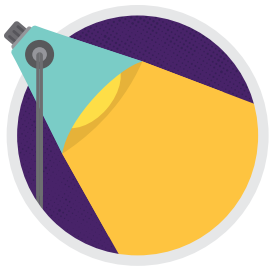
## Three in One, To-Go!

A fruit, granola, and yogurt parfait is a popular grab-and-go item at breakfast. Staff from **New Hampshire's Oyster River School District** make a compote out of USDA Foods blueberries for use in the parfaits. This yogurt parfait credits as 1 ounce equivalent meat alternates, 1 ounce equivalent grains, and ½ cup fruits.

Looking for breakfast recipes? Find USDA's standardized recipes at the Institute for Child Nutrition's Child Nutrition Recipe Box: [theicn.org/cnr/recipes-for-schools](https://theicn.org/cnr/recipes-for-schools).







# School Spotlights: Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast (continued)



## Sandwiches are Breakfast Favorites

One of the most popular breakfast items at **Prince William County Public Schools** in **Virginia** is a baked chicken slider on a whole grain-rich bun, crediting as 1 ounce equivalent meats and 1½ ounce equivalents grains. A small peanut butter and jelly sandwich, which credits as 1 ounce equivalent meat alternates and 1 ounce equivalent grains, is part of a popular second-chance breakfast at **Hutchinson Public Schools** in **Kansas**.



## Making Breakfast Fresh and Local

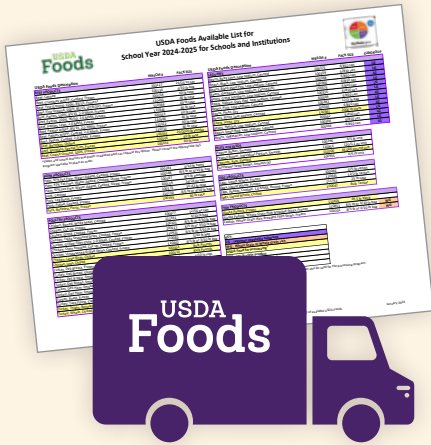
The most popular breakfast item in **Colorado's Greeley-Evans Weld County School District** is a breakfast burrito made with scrambled eggs, cheese, local potatoes, green chilies, and tortillas. This breakfast burrito credits as 1½ ounce equivalents meat alternates and 2 ounce equivalents grains. The district prepares the burritos in a central kitchen and individual schools reheat and serve them.



## Eggs Your Way!

Eggs are popular at breakfast and pair well with a grain. **New Hampshire's Oyster River School District** serves over 100 omelets to high school and middle school students once a week. Students use an order form to request a customized omelet with vegetable options that include bell peppers, mushrooms, spinach, broccoli, and onions. Each omelet has two eggs and one cheese, which credits as 5 ounce equivalents meat alternates. To serve the omelets quickly, school nutrition staff use multiple burners: two for cooking omelets and additional burners for sauteing vegetables. **School District of Superior** in **Wisconsin** offers hard-boiled eggs to students because they are popular, inexpensive, and do not require much staff time to prepare. This hard-boiled egg credits as 2 ounce equivalents meat alternates.

# What are some budget-friendly ways to include meats and meat alternates on the breakfast menu?



## Use USDA Foods

Each State receives a specific value of USDA Foods (also known as entitlement) to provide to schools. Schools can use their USDA Foods entitlement to purchase items for breakfast or lunch. USDA Foods provides a variety of high quality, domestically produced meats and meat alternates that can be offered for breakfast, including yogurt, cheese, peanut butter, sunflower seed butter, eggs, ham, and turkey. The full list of foods is available online at [fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foods-available](https://fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foods-available). Contact your State agency for more information on how to work with processors to turn USDA Foods (such as eggs) into breakfast items, such as cheese omelets.



## Work with Local Meat Vendors

Try buying local meats in bulk or speaking with your distributor or processor about packaging options to lower costs. You may also consider using different cuts of meat to save money. For more information, refer to the "Local Meats in Schools: Increasing Opportunities for Small and Mid-Sized Livestock Ranchers and Fisherman" fact sheet ([fns.usda.gov/cfs/local-meat-schools](https://fns.usda.gov/cfs/local-meat-schools)).

# Give it a Try!

Which of the following menus are reimbursable breakfasts for K-12 (without Offer Versus Serve)?

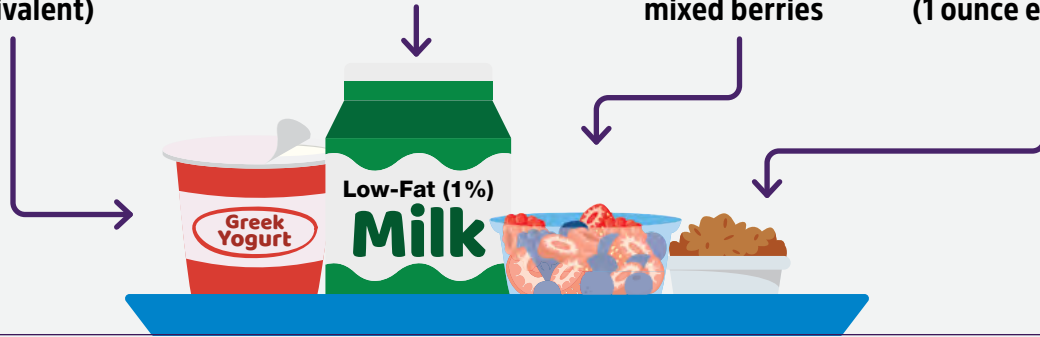
## Menu 1

4 oz (½ cup) Greek yogurt  
(1 ounce equivalent)

1 cup low-fat (1%) milk  
and 1 cup fat-free (skim) milk

1 cup  
mixed berries

¼ cup granola (WG)  
(1 ounce equivalent)

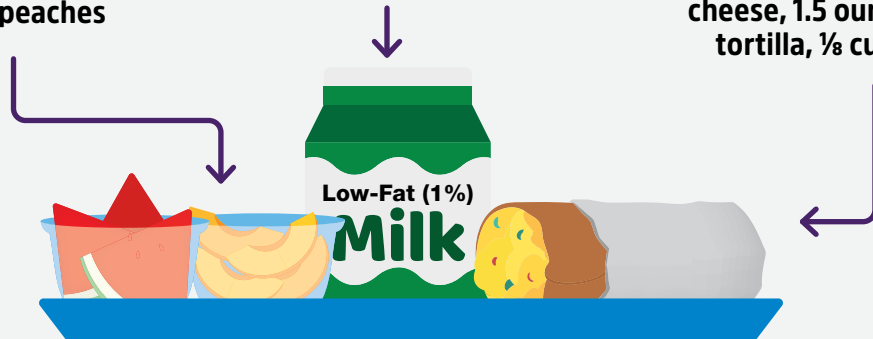


## Menu 2

½ cup melon and  
½ cup peaches

1 cup low-fat (1%) milk  
and 1 cup fat-free (skim) milk

1 breakfast burrito (WG)  
(2 ounce equivalents egg and  
cheese, 1.5 ounce equivalents  
tortilla, ⅛ cup vegetable)



## Menu 3

1 cup sweet potato  
hash brown

1 cup fat-free (skim) milk  
and 1 cup low-fat milk

1 large hard-boiled egg  
(2 ounce equivalents)



All menus are reimbursable as they include all required meal components in the correct amounts. Meats and meat alternates can be offered with or without grains.



For more training, menu planning, and nutrition education materials for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program go to [TeamNutrition.USDA.gov](http://TeamNutrition.USDA.gov).

