



National School Lunch Program Overlapping Grade Groupings Meal Pattern

Sponsors that want to plan one menu for grades K-8 should use this overlapping grade group meal pattern to ensure they are meeting the requirements of both grade groups. Only a few component requirements overlap between K-8 and 9-12, because of this schools must ensure they are meeting the additional needs of grades 9-12 outlined here.

	Grades K-8	Grades 9-12
Meal Pattern	Amount of Food ^a per Week (Minimum per Day)	
Fruit (cups) ^b	2 ½ (1/2)	5 (1)
Vegetables (cups) ^b	3 ¾ (3/4)	5 (1)
Dark Green ^c	½	
Red/Orange ^c	¾	1 ¼
Beans/Peas ^c	½	
Starchy ^c	½	
Other ^{cd}	½	¾
Additional Veg to Reach Total ^e	1	1 ½
Grains (oz eq) ^f	8 (1)	10 (2)
Meats/Meat Alternates (oz eq)	9 (1)	10 (2)
Fluid Milk (cups) ^g	5 (1)	
Other Specifications: Daily Amount Based on Average for 5-Day Week		
Min-Max Calories (kcal) ^h	600-650	750-850
Saturated Fat (% of total kcals) ^h	<10	
Sodium Interim Target 1 (mg) ^h	≤ 1,230	≤ 1,420
Sodium Interim Target 1A (mg) ^h	≤ 1,110	≤ 1,280



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<i>Trans Fat</i>	Nutrition label or manufacturer specifications must indicate zero grams of trans fat per serving.
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^a Food items included in each group and subgroup and amount equivalents. Minimum creditable serving is 1/8 cup.

^b One-quarter cup of dried fruit counts as 1/2 cup of fruit; 1 cup of leafy greens counts as 1/2 cup of vegetables. No more than half of the fruit or vegetable offerings may be in the form of juice. All juice must be 100% full-strength.

^c Larger amounts of these vegetables may be served.

^d This category consists of "Other vegetables" as defined in paragraph (c)(2)(iii)(E) of this section. For the purposes of the NSLP, the "Other vegetables" requirement may be met with any additional amounts from the dark green, red/orange, and beans/peas (legumes) vegetable subgroups as defined in paragraph (c)(2)(iii) of this section.

^e Any vegetable subgroup may be offered to meet the total weekly vegetable requirement.

^f At least 80 percent of grains offered weekly must meet the whole grain-rich criteria specified in FNS guidance, and the remaining grain items offered must be enriched.

^g All fluid milk must be fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1 percent fat or less). Milk may be unflavored or flavored, provided that unflavored milk is offered at each meal service.

^h Discretionary sources of calories (solid fats and added sugars) may be added to the meal pattern if within the specifications for calories, saturated fat, trans fat, and sodium. Foods of minimal nutritional value and fluid milk with fat content greater than 1 percent are not allowed.

ⁱ Sodium Interim Target 1A must be met no later than July 1, 2023 (SY 2023-2024).



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