Breakfast Offer versus Serve Policy

Deerfield Township School District

Implementation Date: 9/2025

Offer versus serve (OVS) is a policy for reimbursable meals that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal in order to reduce plate waste and food cost.

A school breakfast eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer four **(4) food *items*** from the three **(3) food *components*** in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

1. Fruit (Including optional vegetables)
2. Grains (Including optional meat/meat alternate)
3. Milk

Students are allowed to decline one (1) of the four (4*) items* offered, but **must select** at least ½ cup of fruit (or ½ cup of vegetables) or ½ cup of a fruit /vegetable combination.

After taking the required ½ cup fruit, students must select at least two (2) additional food items in the full amounts (per grade group requirements) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

The student's decision to accept all four (4) food *items* or to decline one (1) food *item* shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The breakfast is priced as a unit. If students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff cannot require a student to take a particular food component (except the required ½ cup fruit). It is the student's choice to select three or all four food items.

Prepackaged meals such as bagged or "grab and go" meals are allowed under OVS. School staff is encouraged to offer some food components/food items with choices (e.g. fruit basket) and/or the option to decline an item, such as milk.

At each school implementing the Offer versus Serve Policy:

- School food service staff will be trained annually.
- Signs will be posted to assist students in identifying a reimbursable meal under OVS

Offer versus Serve will be implemented in all schools.