Cafeteria Connection

Connecting you to your child's school lunchroom



WHAT IS Offer Versus Serve?

Offer Versus Serve (OVS) is a key component of our school meal program. **It's a thoughtful approach aimed at empowering students to make healthier food choices while also minimizing food waste and helping us with food costs.** As parents, understanding OVS can help you support your child's nutrition at school.

In an OVS meal service, your child will be presented with a variety of foods from each of the food groups. However, unlike traditional meal programs where all items must be taken, OVS gives students the freedom to choose a set number of items from the available options.

With OVS, our school must offer five food components (meats/meat alternatives, grains, fruits, vegetables, and fluid milk) and students must take three meal components, including at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetable for the meal to qualify for reimbursement.

This system **encourages students to pick foods they enjoy and are more likely to eat,** reducing plate waste.





You can support OVS by discussing meal choices with your children, emphasizing the importance of a balanced meal, and encouraging them to make healthy selections that align with their preferences. Offer versus Serve ultimately empowers students to take an active role in shaping their dietary choices, fostering a healthier and more responsible approach to eating in the school cafeteria.

WHAT IS REIMBURSEMENT?

Child nutrition programs like ours have two primary sources of revenue — federal reimbursements and student payments. **We receive a per-meal reimbursement for each qualifying meal served,** which means the meals we serve must meet certain meal pattern guidelines and nutrition standards. The meal component requirements of OVS help ensure we can receive that reimbursement to **keep our school meals affordable.**

Plainfield Community Schools
Food Services

Connecting you to our schools lunch program to better understand why we do what we do

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