

## What Is A “Reimbursable Meal”?

**Reimbursable Meal** — A single priced meal unit that offers all of the USDA daily required meal pattern components for each age/grade group served in the minimum required amounts. Quantities vary by age/grade group, but components remain constant and necessary for all student meals claimed for reimbursement.

### **Lunch meal pattern consists of five food components:**

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Grains
- Meats/Meat Alternates (m/ma)
- Fluid Milk

Under [Offer vs. Serve](#) in the National School Lunch Program, student must take at 3 components in the required serving sizes. One selection must be ½ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.

### **Breakfast meal pattern consists of three food components:**

- Fruit/Vegetable
- Grains - (Meat/Meat Alternates may be substituted when minimum daily grain requirement is met)
- Fluid Milk

Under [Offer vs. Serve](#) in the National School Breakfast Program, students must select 3 food items in the required serving sizes. One selection must be ½ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.

*If a student does not select the required components, the meal is considered à la carte, and individual items will be charged separately. Milk is available with every school meal at no additional cost as part of a reimbursable meal. Students who purchase an extra milk or choose milk without a reimbursable meal will be charged \$0.55 per carton.*

### **Resources:**

<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-requirements/menu-planning/meal-pattern-tables-components>

7 CFR § 210.10 Meal requirements for lunches and requirements for afterschool snacks, and

7 CFR § 220.8 Nutrition standards and menu planning approaches for breakfasts

