

Lunch Offer Versus Serve Policy

Orange Board of Education

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 lunch eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer five **(5) food components** in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping;

1. Fruit
2. Vegetable
3. Grains
4. Meat/Meat Alternate
5. Milk

Students are allowed to decline two (2) of the five (5) required food components, but **must select** at least 1/2 cup of either fruit (or fruit combination) or 1/2 cup of vegetables (or vegetable combination) or 1/2 cup of a fruit/vegetable combination.

After taking the required 1/2 cup fruit or vegetable, student must select at least two (2) additional components in the full amounts {per grade group requirements) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

The student's decision to accept all five (5) components or to decline two (2) components is acceptable. If a student chooses to take less than the required components, a la carte prices will be charged for those foods that don't meet a reimbursable meal.

School staff cannot require a student to take a particular food component (except the required 1/2 cup fruit or vegetable). It is the student's choice to select three, four or all five components.

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 a component/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 in the Orange Public School District.