

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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DATE: August 1, 2014

MEMO CODE: SP 57 -2014

SUBJECT: Updated Offer versus Serve Guidance for the  
National School Lunch Program and School  
Breakfast Program in School Year 2014-2015

TO: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions

State Directors  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

Offer versus Serve (OVS) is a provision in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) that allows students to decline some of the food offered. The goals of OVS are to reduce food waste in the school meals programs while permitting students to decline foods they do not intend to eat.

Attached is the updated guidance manual for OVS, which is optional at all grade levels for breakfast and required at the senior high school level only for lunch. As parts of the NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements are being phased-in over multiple years, this guidance is for School Year (SY) 2014-2015 only. The guidance will be revised as needed to reflect new requirements as they are phased-in.

Most of the changes in this year guidance are related to the SBP. Children must now select at least one-half cup of fruit (or vegetable substitute) in order to have a reimbursable breakfast. For OVS, a child must select at least three food items including at least one-half cup of fruit. In addition, the guidance includes clarifications relating to OVS that were made since the issuance of last year's OVS Guidance.

State agencies are reminded to distribute this memo and attachment to program operators immediately. SFAs should contact their State agencies for additional information. State agencies may direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.



Cynthia Long  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division

Attachment