

## Added Sugars

*indicates implementation date. Blank cells indicate no changes/no new requirements.*

Requirements	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26	SY 2026-27	SY 2027-28
Product-based limits for breakfast cereals, yogurt, and flavored milk				
Weekly limit (<10% weekly calories from added sugars for both lunch and breakfast programs)				

## Milk

Requirements	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26	SY 2026-27	SY 2027-28
All schools may offer flavored milk varieties (low-fat and fat-free) to K-12 students.	Schools will continue with current requirement.			

## Whole Grains

Requirements	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26	SY 2026-27	SY 2027-28
At least 80% of the grains offered for both lunch and breakfast programs per week must be whole grain-rich.  Adds in regulation the current definition of whole grain-rich: <i>“the grain content of a product is between 50% and 100% whole grain with any remaining grains being enriched.”</i>	Schools will continue with current requirement.			

## Sodium

*indicates implementation date.*

Requirements	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26	SY 2026-27	SY 2027-28
Lunch - 15% reduction from current sodium limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grades K-5: <math>\leq</math> 935 mg</li> <li>• Grades 6-8: <math>\leq</math> 1,035 mg</li> <li>• Grades 9-12: <math>\leq</math> 1,080 mg</li> </ul>			Continue sodium target 1A from <a href="#">transitional final rule</a> while working toward meeting future requirement.	
Breakfast - 10% reduction from current sodium limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grades K-5: <math>\leq</math> 485 mg</li> <li>• Grades 6-8: <math>\leq</math> 535 mg</li> <li>• Grades 9-12: <math>\leq</math> 570 mg</li> </ul>			Continue sodium target 1A from <a href="#">transitional final rule</a> while working toward meeting future requirement.	

## Afterschool Snacks

*indicates implementation date. Blank cells indicate no changes/no new requirements.*

Requirements	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26	SY 2026-27	SY 2027-28
Revises the definition of “child” to clarify that children aged 18 and under at the start of the school year may receive reimbursable NSLP afterschool snacks throughout that school year. <sup>1</sup>				

Aligns NSLP afterschool snack meal pattern requirements for K-12 children with the CACFP snack meal pattern requirements.				
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## Meal Modifications

*indicates implementation date. Blank cells indicate no changes/no new requirements.*

Requirements	SY 2024- 25	SY 2025- 26	SY 2026- 27	SY 2027- 28
Clarifies existing policy guidance by including in regulation that state licensed healthcare professionals may write medical statements to request meal modifications on behalf of students with disabilities in the school meal programs. <sup>1</sup>				
Defines a state licensed healthcare professional as an individual authorized to write medical prescriptions under state law, consistent with current policy guidance. <sup>1</sup>				
In addition to state licensed healthcare professionals, also permits registered dietitians to write medical statements to request meal modifications on behalf of students with disabilities in the school meal programs.				
Regarding non-disability requests, makes clear in regulation that USDA encourages schools to meet participants' non-disability dietary preferences when planning and preparing school meals.				

## Buy American

*indicates implementation date. Blank cells indicate no changes/no new requirements.*

Requirements	SY 2024- 25	SY 2025- 26	SY 2026- 27	SY 2027- 28
Maintains the two current limited exceptions for the Buy American provision, which is consistent with current policy guidance, and includes them in regulation. Also provides the use of an exceptions list when items are determined to not be available in the U.S.	Schools will continue to be able to use the limited exceptions to the Buy American requirement and can use the provided exceptions list beginning July 1, 2024.			
Institutes a phased-in cap on total non-domestic food purchases. For school food authorities unable to meet the phased-in cap, a temporary accommodation will be available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In SY 2025-26, non-domestic food purchases are capped at 10 percent.</li> <li>• In SY 2028-29, non-domestic food purchases are capped at 8 percent.</li> <li>• In SY 2031-32, non-domestic food purchases are capped at 5 percent.</li> </ul>			
Requires school food authorities to maintain documentation to demonstrate use of one of the two limited exceptions, except when items are listed on the exceptions list. <sup>1</sup>				
Requires school food authorities to include the Buy American requirements in documented procurement procedures, solicitations, and contracts for foods and food products procured for NSLP and SBP using				

informal and formal procurement methods, and in awarded contracts. This is consistent with current policy guidance. <sup>1</sup>				
Adds in regulation the following definition of “substantially” for the Buy American provision, which is consistent with current policy guidance: <i>“Substantially using agriculture commodities that are produced in the United States means over 51 percent of a food product must consist of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically.”<sup>1</sup></i>				
Adds in regulation language explaining how the Buy American requirements apply to fish and fish products offered in NSLP and SBP, consistent with current policy guidance. <sup>1</sup>				

## Menu Planning and Operational Flexibilities

**Implementation Date: July 1, 2024**

*The menu planning and operational flexibilities summarized below are available to school meal program operators on July 1, 2024; however, NSLP and SBP operators are not required to change menus or operations as a result of these provisions.*

- [Meat/Meat Alternates at Breakfast](#)
- [Substituting Vegetables for Grains in Tribal Communities](#)
- [Substituting Vegetables for Grains in Guam and Hawaii](#)
- [Traditional Indigenous Foods](#)
- [Substituting Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast](#)
- [Nuts and Seeds](#)
- [Beans, Peas, and Lentils at Lunch](#)
- [Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks in Schools](#)
- [Whole Grains \(Entrée Definition\)](#)
- [Professional Standards](#)
- [Geographic Preference](#)
- [Synthetic Trans Fat](#)

