The Buzz

August 2025

REMINDER: NON-CREDITABLE FOOD ITEMS IN THE FOOD PROGRAM

Grains – NOT Creditable:

- Cakes, cookies, brownies
- Caramel corn
- Corn chips, cheese puffs
- Donuts, scones
- Ice cream cones
- Potato chips/sticks
- Popovers, toaster pastries

Fruits & Vegetables – NOT Creditable:

- Ketchup, chili sauce, pickle relish
- Coconut
- Chips/sticks (banana, corn, etc.)
- Commercially added fruit or flavorings
- Fruit-flavored powders, syrups, punches, cocktails
- Jam, jelly, fruit preserves
- Jell-O or gelatin
- Lemonade or any “-ade” drink
- Nectar, popsicles
- Pop tart filling
- Potato chips

Meat/Meat Alternates – NOT Creditable:

- Bacon, Spam, pepperoni, pigs' feet/tails
- Canned meat soups (most lack the required meat content)
- Cream cheese
- Powdered cheese (in boxed mac & cheese)
- Sizzlelean and other bacon substitutes
- Meat analogues (non-100% meat veggie products)

Things to Remember:

- **Combination fruits/vegetables (example: fruit cocktail, peas & carrots) count as one item; you may choose mixed fruits or mixed vegetables.**
- **100% juice is creditable once per day only.**
- **If a small amount of a fruit or vegetable is included in a bread, sandwich, casserole, or soup, you must serve an additional fruit or vegetable to meet the required serving size. Refer to the meal pattern for correct portion requirements.**
- **When serving a mixed dish (example: lasagna, tacos, pizza), it counts as only two meal components. You must offer three other components to ensure a complete meal. This way, if a child chooses not to eat the mixed dish, there are still three other items available to meet the meal pattern requirements.**
- **You must prepare the meals in your home. Serving foods prepared elsewhere (McDonald's, Taco Bell, Little Caesars) can not be claimed for reimbursement. Children must eat the meal in your home in order to claim it. You may not claim a meal or snack sent home or to school with a child or meals taken on field trips.**
- **Use a variety in your menu; avoid repeating meals weekly. Try introducing a new item monthly.**
- **Involving children in food prep encourages them to try new foods.**

CLICK HERE for the Link

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