

Nearly 32 million children receive meals throughout the school day. These meals are based on nutrition standards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. New nutrition standards for schools increase access to healthy food and encourage kids to make smart choices. Schools are working to make meals more nutritious, keep all students hunger-free, and help children maintain or reach a healthy weight.

LUNCH GUIDELINES TO KNOW:

**FIVE FOOD GROUPS:
FRUITS
VEGETABLES
DAIRY
PROTEIN
GRAINS**

Students must take 3 of the 5 food groups

- One item must be one-half cup fruit or vegetable

***Middle School & High School:
Salad Bar Changes!***

Meat and Cheese will be in individual cups. Students may take any combination of two, i.e. one meat and one cheese, two cheese cups, or two meat cups. Additional portions will be charged a fee of \$.50.

Calorie Goals per Meal:

- K-5 550-650
- 6-8 600-700
- 9-12 750-850

1 healthier school meals for your children

Your children benefit from healthier meals that include more whole grains, fruits and vegetables, low-fat dairy products, lower sodium foods, and less saturated fat. Talk to your child about the changes in the meals served at school.

2 more fruits and vegetables every day

Kids have fruits and vegetables at school every day. A variety of vegetables are served throughout the week including red, orange, and dark-green vegetables.

3 more whole-grain foods

Half of all grains offered are whole-grain-rich foods such as whole-grain pasta, brown rice, and oatmeal. Some foods are made by replacing half the refined-grain (white) flour with whole-grain flour.

4 both low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk varieties are offered

Kids get the same calcium and other nutrients, but with fewer calories and less saturated fat by drinking low-fat (1%) or fat-free milk. For kids who can't drink milk due to allergies or lactose intolerance, schools can offer milk substitutes.

5 less saturated fat and salt

A variety of foods are offered to reduce the salt and saturated fat in school meals. Main dishes may include beans, peas, nuts, tofu, or seafood as well as lean meats or poultry. Ingredients and foods contain less salt (sodium).

6 new portion sizes

School meals meet children's calorie needs, based on their age. While some portions may be smaller, kids still get the nutrition they need to keep them growing and active.

7 MyPlate can help kids make better food choices

Show children how to make healthy food choices at school by using MyPlate. Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov for tips and resources.

8 resources for parents

School meal programs can provide much of what children need for health and growth. But for many parents, buying healthy foods at home is a challenge. Learn more about healthy school meals and other nutrition assistance programs at www.fns.usda.gov.