

Child Nutrition Fact Sheet

DID YOU KNOW.....?

- The Hancock County School District, Child Nutrition Department's goal is to provide high quality, nutritious meals to all students.
- The Child Nutrition Department is a federally funded program by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. To continue to qualify for federal funds, we must follow the rules and regulations of the federal government's meal pattern.
- The provision Offer versus Serve is utilized at Hancock County School District for the National School Lunch program and School Breakfast program.

*"Other than selecting the required minimum ½ cup fruit and/or vegetable serving, it is the **student's choice to select or decline [ANY OTHER] food component.** Schools may not specify other food components a student must select."*

Understanding Offer versus Serve (OVS)

- OVS allows students to decline some of the food offered to them.
 - The goals of OVS:
 - Reduce food waste in the school meal programs while allowing students to decline foods they do not intend to eat, such as: the meat/meat alternate (entrée), or grain, or milk.
- OVS at Lunch:
 - Schools must offer students all five required food components.
 - The 5 components offered at lunch are: 1. Meat/meat alternates 2. Grain 3. Fruit 4. Vegetable 5. Milk
 - **A student must take at least three components in the required serving sizes.**
 - One selection must be at least ½ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.
- OVS at Breakfast:
 - Schools must offer students all three of required food components.
 - The 3 components offered at breakfast are: 1. Grains 2. Juice/fruit 3. Milk
 - Under OVS a student must be offered at least four food items
 - **A student must select at least three food items**
 - One selection must be ½ cup of fruit.
- *"While water must be made available to students during meal service, Schools should not promote or offer water or other beverages as an alternative selection to fluid milk on the meal service line. Water is not a food component or food item for the meal."*
- Though the student makes the final decision, faculty and cafeteria staff encourages the students to make the healthy choice.
- For more information about OVS, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals>

Special Diet Requirements

- Regulations permit substitutions for children with special needs.
- A statement from a physician supporting a student's condition and prescribed substitution **must** be submitted to the Child Nutrition Department as soon as the child is diagnosed.
- A medical statement for food allergies is **required** for EACH school year.

Monthly School Menus are available online to review with your child at www.hancockschools.net - click quick links then cafeteria menu

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact the Child Nutrition Office at 228-255-0344

RS
9/27/18