

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program

This information applies to the meal pattern for grades K-12 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The ASP meal pattern for preschoolers (ages 1-4) has different requirements. For information on ASP snacks for preschoolers, see the CSDE's handouts, *ASP Meal Pattern for Preschoolers*, *Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschoolers and Grades K-12 in the ASP*, and *Menu Planning Guidance for Preschoolers in the ASP*.



Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that cannot credit in the USDA's meal patterns for Child Nutrition Programs. For information on the ASP meal pattern, see the CSDE's handout, *ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12*, and the CSDE's guide, *Afterschool Snack Program Handbook*.

Examples of noncreditable foods include potato chips, pudding, ice cream, gelatin, cream cheese, bacon, condiments (e.g., syrup, jam, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and butter), and water. The chart on page 2 lists additional examples of noncreditable foods for grades K-12 in the ASP. This list is not all-inclusive.

School food authorities (SFAs) may serve noncreditable foods in addition to the meal components to add variety, help improve acceptability in the meal, and satisfy appetites. Some examples include maple syrup on pancakes, salad dressing on tossed greens, and condiments such as ketchup or mustard on sandwiches and other entrees.

Some noncreditable foods (such as candy, soda, coffee, tea, and sports drinks) cannot be sold in the ASP due to federal or state requirements. For more information, see the CSDE's webpages, [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#).

To ensure that ASP snacks meet children's nutritional needs, the CSDE encourages SFAs to use discretion when serving noncreditable foods. Noncreditable foods typically contain few nutrients and are higher in added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium. Menu planners should read labels, be aware of the ingredients in foods, and limit the frequency and amount of less nutritious choices. For guidance on planning menus to decrease added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium, see section 6 of the CSDE's *Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12*.



Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

For information on crediting foods for grades K-12 in the ASP, see the CSDE's [ASP Handbook](#) and the CSDE's [Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Examples of noncreditable foods for grades K-12 in the ASP ¹

Almond milk ²	Ice cream
Bacon and bacon bits	Ice cream novelties
Banana chips	Ice milk
Bread products that are not whole grain or enriched	Iced coffee ³
Butter	Iced tea ³
Candy ³	Jam and jelly
Candy-coated popcorn ³	Jerky, e.g., meat, poultry or fish
Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo ³	Lemonade ³
Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, iced) ³	Limeade ³
Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce	Maple syrup
Cranberry cocktail drink ³	Margarine
Cream, half and half	Marshmallows
Cream cheese	Mayonnaise
Cream soups, canned, e.g., cream of mushroom, cream of celery, cream of broccoli	Milk, whole and reduced fat (2%)
Eggnog ³	Mustard
Egg whites	Nectar drinks ³
Frozen yogurt	Nondairy milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²
Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix ³	Popsicles (not 100 percent juice)
Fruit leathers (100 percent fruit)	Potato chips
Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice) ³	Pudding
Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, twists	Pudding pops
Gelatin, regular and sugar free	Rice milk ²
Grain products that are not whole grain or enriched	Salad dressings
Honey	Sherbet
Hot chocolate ³	Soda, regular and diet ³
	Soups, non-vegetable, canned, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice
	Sour cream

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Examples of noncreditable foods for grades K-12 in the ASP ¹, *continued*

Soy milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²	Tea, regular, herbal, iced ³
Sports drinks ³	Tofu with less than 5 grams of protein in 2.2 ounces (weight) or 1/4 cup (volume) ⁴
Spreadable fruit	Water ⁵
Syrup	White rice, unenriched

- ¹ Snack foods sold a la carte must meet the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) (which apply to public school districts that participate in the healthy food option of [Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\)](#)) or the USDA [Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards (which apply to public school districts that do not participate in the healthy food option of HFC, and to private schools and residential child care institutions).
- ² Milk substitutes must meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes. For more information, see the CSDE's handout, [Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs](#).
- ³ These competitive foods and beverages cannot be sold in the USDA school nutrition programs due to federal or state requirements. For more information, visit the CSDE's [Competitive Foods](#) webpage and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpage.
- ⁴ For more information, see the CSDE's handout, [Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP](#).
- ⁵ The [Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act \(HHFKA\)](#) requires that schools make drinking water available to children at no charge where meals are served during the meal service (including the ASP). However, SFAs cannot promote or offer water or any other beverage as an alternative selection to fluid milk throughout the food service area. For more information, see [USDA Memo SP 49-2016 and CACFP 18-2016: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) and [USDA Memo SP 19-2018: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs](#).

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Resources

Afterschool Snack Program (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Afterschool-Snack-Program>

Afterschool Snack Program Handbook (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASPHandbook.pdf>

Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASPmealpatternK12.pdf>

Afterschool Snack Program Sample Menu for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASPsamplenuk12.pdf>

Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/SpecDiet/Milksub.pdf>

Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Connecticut-Nutrition-Standards>

Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditMMA.pdf>

Crediting Deli Meats in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditDeli.pdf>

Crediting Enriched Grains in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditEnrichedGrains.pdf>

Crediting Foods for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Crediting-Foods-in-School-Nutrition-Programs/Documents>

Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditTofu.pdf>

Crediting Whole Grains in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditWholeGrains.pdf>

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Guide to Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/CompetitiveFoodsGuideHFC.pdf>

Guide to Competitive Foods in Non-HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/CompetitiveFoodsGuideNonHFC.pdf>

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Guide to Competitive Foods in Private Schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/CompetitiveFoodsGuidePrivateRCCI.pdf>

Healthy Food Certification (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification>

List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/List-of-Acceptable-Foods-and-Beverages>

Menu Planning Guidance for Grades K-12 in the ASP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASPmenuguidanceK12.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 08-2019, CACFP 02-2019 and SFSP 02-2019: Update of Food Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/update-food-crediting-child-nutrition-programs>

USDA Memo SP 19-2018: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Memos/OM2018/SP19-2018s.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 49-2016 and CACFP 18-2016: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources-making-potable-water-available-schools-and-child-care-facilities-0>

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For more information, review the CSDE's [ASP Handbook](#) and visit the CSDE's [ASP](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASPNoncredK12.pdf>.

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