

## **Offer Versus Serve Procedure**

### **For Lunch:**

#### **Implementation Date: August 2012**

A school lunch eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer 5 food components (milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, meat/meat alternates) in the appropriate amounts per grade groupings. Students are allowed to decline 2 of the 5 required food components, but must select at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of either a fruit (or fruit combination) or a vegetable (or vegetable combination) or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit/vegetable combination. After selecting the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit or vegetable requirement, students must select at least 2 additional full components in the full amounts (per age/grade grouping required amounts) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal. The student's decision to accept all 5 components or to decline 2 components shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The lunch is priced as a unit. Offer vs Serve will be implemented in all school cafeterias at all grade levels.

An exception to this policy will be the Early Learning Program at the Educational Center, Special Education Students, Pre-K and Head Start Programs where it is necessary to pre-plate meals. In addition, bag lunches for special occasions will be exempted.

### **For Breakfast:**

#### **Implementation Date: August 2013**

A school breakfast eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer 3 food components (milk, fruits and grains) that consist of a minimum of 4 food items. Students are allowed to decline 1 food item but must select at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of fruit (or fruit combination). After meeting the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit requirements, students must select the other food components in the full amounts (per age/grade grouping required amounts) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal. The student's decision to accept all 4 items or to decline one item shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The breakfast is priced as a unit.

Note: For breakfast, vegetables may be substituted for fruits, but the first two cups per week of any such substitution must be from the dark green, red/orange, beans and peas (legumes) or "other vegetables" subgroups. Meat/meat alternate may be offered after minimum grains requirement is met.

An exemption to this policy will be the Early Learning Program at the Educational Center, Special Education Students, Pre-K and Head Start Programs where it is necessary to pre-plate meals.