

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM	ISSUED	REVISED	CHAPTER	SECTION
	AT-RISK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	6/2011	2/12	7	7.9
CHAPTER Chapter 7 - Meal Pattern		SUBJECT Offer Versus Serve			

With approval from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services – Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (MDHSS-BCFNA CACFP), regulation permits the use of offer versus serve (OVS), when meals are prepared in or by school food service authorities (SFAs) and served by schools or other institutions participating in the CACFP. At-risk centers that serve meals prepared by SFAs that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), whether they are located in the school or in another location, have the option of using OVS in their at-risk center for the supper meal. Offer versus serve may *not* be used with snacks.

Offer versus serve is a meal service option where participants are “offered” all of the components of the meal pattern, but are not required to take them all. Offer versus serve can help teach children to make choices and is a way to decrease food waste because participants choose only those foods they wish to eat.

Assistance with meal selection may be necessary in order to provide well-balanced meals. Participants are not required to decline foods that are offered, but may do so if they choose. OVS is not considered appropriate for preschool children because it may interfere with Program nutrition goals and the institution’s efforts to introduce new foods to children.

The centers must notify the MDHSS-BCFNA for approval to use OVS. The institution’s option to participate in offer vs. serve must be noted under “General Comments” box (line 65) in the Center Info Sheet in the on-line applications/claims database. MDHSS-BCFNA must also be notified if the center changes the OVS option.

**Supper – Meal Component Requirements:**

**For participants ages 6 through 12 the supper meal shall include six required food items:** two servings (2oz.) of meat/meat alternate, two servings (3/4 cup total) of different vegetable/fruit/juice; one serving of grain/breads; and one serving (1 cup) low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim) milk. NOTE: participants over 12 may be served additional portions based on the *Food Chart – At-Risk After School* for ages 13 through 18.

**Under OVS, up to two of the six required foods may be declined.**

**Snacks – Both snack components must be served.** Offer versus serve may *not* be used with snacks.

Adequate food and milk purchases will be verified at CACFP monitoring reviews in compliance with the OVS meal option. The center must demonstrate that they offer all Program meal components in the regulatory amounts. If the center is ordering milk based on previous consumption patterns, they should have a plan on how to ensure that enough milk will be provided should the demand increase for any given day of operation.

Adequate food and milk purchases will be verified at CACFP monitoring reviews in compliance with the offer vs. serve meal option. The amount of milk purchased should correlate with the food preference of

participants that routinely choose to drink milk in the 8 oz. (1/2 pint) minimum serving size offered. It is the responsibility of Program personnel to *offer* milk as a beverage choice to participants according to the *At-Risk After School Food Chart*. The at-risk after school program should document daily portions served to justify that adequate milk is purchased for the number of participants who choose to drink milk.

References: 7CFR 226.20(o)  
CACFP 23-2011, May 17, 2011