



## SECTION 6: Menu Planning and Meal Pattern Requirements

Family day care homes, group homes and sponsoring organizations participating in CACFP must provide meals that meet meal pattern requirements.

- Healthy Meals and Nutrition Environment
- Menu Planning Guidelines
- Five Meal Components
- Meal Pattern Requirement Worksheets
- Food Charts
- Menu Templates



# Healthy Meals and Nutrition Environment

The first few years of a child's life are critical years for growth and brain development. It is also a time when children begin forming eating and exercise habits that last a lifetime. Nationwide, nearly 75 percent of children from three to six years of age are in some type of child care, including 56 percent in center-based care. Family day care homes and group homes serve an important role in helping young children develop good eating and physical activity habits.

Children in care settings may receive half or more of their daily nutritional needs while in care. Since these meals and snacks supply such a major portion of a child's total intake, the food and the environment in which the foods are offered impact children's health not only today but also in the future.

Home providers have a major responsibility to provide healthy foods in a supportive environment. Mealtimes can be a time for learning about nutrition, hand washing, table manners, conversation and motor skills, as well as an opportunity to try new foods.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) are jointly issued and updated every five years by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services. They are designed for policymakers and nutrition and health professionals. The aim of the DGAs is to promote health and prevent disease. The DGAs provide four overarching guidelines that encourage healthy eating patterns at each stage of life and recognize that individuals will need to make shifts in their food and beverage choices to achieve a healthy pattern.

The DGAs Key Recommendations call for Americans to 1) follow a healthy eating pattern at every stage of life; 2) customize and enjoy nutrient-dense food and beverage choices to reflect personal preferences, cultural traditions, and budgetary considerations; 3) focus on meeting food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages, and stay within calorie limits; and 4) limit food and beverages higher in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium, and limit alcoholic beverages. The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* is available at <https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/>.

The recommendations in the DGAs are transitioned into consumer messages through MyPlate. MyPlate serves as a template for balance, variety, and moderation. MyPlate is not a special diet for individuals with specific health conditions. Individuals with chronic health conditions should consult with a health care provider to determine what dietary pattern is appropriate for them. MyPlate resources and tools are available at <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>.

## **Water Availability**

Drinking water must be offered and available to children upon their request throughout the day, including at meal times. While water must be made available to children during meals, it is not part of the reimbursable meals and cannot be served in lieu of milk. Water can be made available to children in a variety of ways, including simply providing water to a child when it is requested. (CACFP 20-2011 Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Water Availability in the Child Care and Adult Care Food Program, May 11, 2011)

See Team Nutrition worksheet, [Offering Water in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), in the Resource section of this manual.

# Menu Planning Guidelines

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Meal Pattern Requirements, the Crediting Handbook for the CACFP, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs assure that children participating in the CACFP are served foods that supply the nutrients they need. Family day care homes (FDCH) and group home menus have a major influence on the development of children's eating habits. It is important that menus help establish patterns for healthy eating. **Follow these guidelines when developing menus:**

- Select a form for documenting your daily menus. The menu template is recommended; these forms list the food components required for each meal and snack. A five and seven-day version is available at <http://health.mo.gov/cacfp> Forms.
- Choose the type of menu format you will use; a two to three-week cycle menu format is recommended. A cycle menu is a set of menus that are repeated in the same order for a period of time, typically two, three, or four weeks. Cycle menus provide variety by offering different foods and/or different food combinations each day during the cycle.
- When there are substitutions from the planned menu, mark through the original menu item and enter the substitution. The original daily dated menu that notes substitutions must be kept with the monthly records and retained for three years plus the current year.
- Know the cooking abilities of the person(s) preparing the meals. Review the menu and recipes with the cook and provide training as necessary. Select or develop standardized recipes for menu items.
- Plan menu items based on the equipment available in the home's kitchen.
- Include all food components in at least the minimum portion sizes required for reimbursement. It is usually easiest to start by planning the main dish or entrée.
- Plan menus that keep the nutritional needs of children in focus. Be sure to include a good source of iron and Vitamins A and C.
  - Iron sources include asparagus, lima beans, sweet potatoes, squash, vegetable juice, turkey, tuna, apricots, cherries, dried fruit, dried peas, eggs, meat, and green beans.
  - Vitamin A sources include apricots, cantaloupe, cherries, plums, egg yolk, asparagus, broccoli, carrots, kale, peas, and sweet potatoes.
  - Vitamin C sources include citrus fruit and juice, broccoli, asparagus, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, snow pears, peppers (green and red), cantaloupe, honeydew melon, mango, papaya, kiwi, and strawberries.
- Limit high-fat and high-sodium meats to no more than one time per week, including but not limited to hot dogs, sausage, lunchmeat, and processed meats.
- Grain-based desserts do not count toward the grain requirement, with the exception of sweet crackers, which include graham crackers of all shapes and animal crackers.
- Specify the type of fruit, juice, or vegetables on your menus to ensure a variety of food is served and to document the nutritional value of the meal.
- Specify the type of cereal and yogurt to ensure sugar requirements are met. Maintain documentation with the CACFP records.
- Make sure the meals look and taste good. Introduce new foods along with familiar foods that children already like.
- Include foods that are different shapes: round, square, rectangular, and different colors: yellow, orange, red, and green.
- Combine foods that have different textures: soft, crunchy, crisp, creamy, and smooth, and different tastes: sweet, sour, tart, salty, spicy, and mild.

- Consider the different ethnic and cultural food habits and preferences of children.
- Fat-free or low-fat milk is required at each meal for participants two years of age and older. Milk served to one-year-olds must be unflavored whole milk. Serve breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula to infants through 11 months of age. Flavored fat-free or low-fat milk may be served to participants six years old or older. Document the type of milk served on the menu. This includes listing the fat content (whole, low-fat/1%, fat-free/skim) and if the milk is flavored.
- Use fats and oils sparingly in food preparation and limit the use of salt and high-sodium foods.

**Standardized Recipes:** A standardized recipe is one that has been tried several times using the same method and equipment. A standardized recipe produces consistency in product quality and yields the same number of servings every time it is used as long as the same procedures, equipment, and ingredients are used. Since standardized recipes specify exact amounts of ingredients, it is easier to manage the cost and storage of foods. A link to the USDA Standardized Recipes is available on the CACFP website at: <http://health.mo.gov/cacfp>.

The **USDA FBG for Child Nutrition Programs** is available as an interactive web-based tool, as a mobile app, and as a downloadable PDF. USDA resources help you determine the right amount of food and the appropriate type of food to purchase for your program. These resources aid in determining the specific meal contribution each food makes towards the meal pattern requirements and provide information on recipe analysis. The **FBG, Web-based Interactive FBG, the FBG Mobile App, and the FBG Calculator** are available online at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buyingguide-for-child-nutrition-programs>. The **Crediting Handbook for CACFP** is a companion guide to the FBG that contains additional information on creditable foods served in FDCH or group homes.

# Five Meal Components

## **Milk**

Unflavored whole milk must be served to 1-year-old children; unflavored skim or 1% milk must be served to children 2 through 5 years of age; unflavored or flavored skim or 1% milk can be served to children 6 years and older, including adults.

### **Specifics:**

- Must be pasteurized fluid milk.
- Is a required component at breakfast, lunch, and supper.
- Milk may be served as a beverage, on cereal, or used for some of both at breakfast and snack. Lunch and supper require milk to be served as a beverage.
- Milk used in cooking is not creditable.
- Infants birth through 11 months must be provided breastmilk (including breastfed on site) or iron-fortified infant formula.
- Milk may not be served for snacks when juice is served as the second component.

## **Meat/Meat Alternate (m/ma)**

Includes lean meat, poultry, fish, cheese, egg, cooked beans, peas and lentils, nuts and seeds and their butters, tofu, alternate protein products, and yogurt - creditable at lunch, supper, and snack. An m/ma may replace the grain component at breakfast a maximum of 3 times per week.

### **Specifics:**

- Required at lunch and supper – must be served as the main dish or in a main dish and one other menu item.
- Nuts and seeds and their butters may be used to meet full m/ma requirements at all meals and snacks.
- Tofu, yogurt, and soy yogurts (that meet the sugar limit of 23 gm per 6 oz., maintain documentation) may be used to meet the m/ma alternate component.
- Yogurt credits as 4 oz. = 1 ounce equivalent m/ma.
- For a food to contribute to the M/MA component, it must contain a minimum of 0.25 oz. eq. of a M/MA.
- A combination of food served as a main dish may be credited as the m/ma plus up to 2 other meal components (3 total), provided each component meets the minimum meal pattern requirement.
- Limit serving processed meats (lunch meat, cold cuts, hot dogs, and sausage products) to no more than one serving per week is recommended.
- Commercially processed food must have processed food documentation (CN label, product formulation statement) to be creditable.
- May be served in place of the entire grain component at breakfast a maximum of 3 times per week. One ounce equivalent of m/ma can be substituted for 1 ounce equivalent of grain (\*see above regarding yogurt serving size to credit as 1 oz. of m/ma).

### **Vegetable**

Includes fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables and full-strength vegetable juice.

#### **Specifics:**

- Cooked beans, peas, and lentils may credit as either a vegetable or as a meat alternate, but not as both in the same meal. Immature beans and peas, such as green peas, green beans and wax beans **cannot** credit as a meat alternate, only as a vegetable.
- One cup of raw leafy greens counts as ½ cup of vegetables.
- One serving of either a fruit OR a vegetable or both is required at breakfast.
- A vegetable may be used to meet the entire fruit requirement at lunch/supper.
- When two vegetables are served at lunch or supper, two different kinds of vegetables must be served.
- Pasteurized full-strength 100% juice may only be used to meet the vegetable requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.
- The minimum creditable serving size for vegetables is ⅛ cup.

### **Fruit**

Includes fresh, frozen, dried, or canned fruit and full-strength fruit juice.

#### **Specifics:**

- Fruits may be served fresh, frozen, canned, dried or as 100% pasteurized fruit juice.
- One serving of either a fruit OR a vegetable or both is required at breakfast.
- ¼ cup of dried fruit counts as ½ cup of fruit.
- Pasteurized full-strength 100% juice may only be used to meet the fruit requirement at one meal, including snacks, per day.
- Juice may not be served at snack when milk is served as a component.
- Combinations such as fruit cocktail may be credited to meet one of the two required components at lunch or supper.
- One serving of fruit can be replaced with a vegetable at lunch/supper.
- The minimum creditable serving size for fruits is ⅛ cup.

### **Grains**

Includes whole grain-rich or enriched bread, bread products; or whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cereal grain, cooked pasta or noodle products, or breakfast cereal; or any combination of these foods.

#### **Specifics:**

- Required at breakfast, lunch, and supper.
- At least 1 grain per day must be whole grain (WG) rich (documentation must be maintained in file). (Whole grain-rich foods are those in which the grain content is between 50 and 100 percent whole grain with any remaining grains being enriched or are 100% whole grain.)
- Ready-to-eat cereal may be served at breakfast and snacks only. Cereal must contain no more than 6 gm of sugar per dry ounce (documentation must be maintained on file).
- Grain-based desserts do not count toward the grain requirement, except for sweet crackers, which include graham crackers of all shapes and animal crackers.
- An m/ma may be used to meet the entire grain component at breakfast a maximum of three times per week.

# MILK...

## Part of a Healthy Eating Pattern

**Drinking milk is an important habit for young children and serving them milk at meals is a CACFP requirement.**

Each sip of milk is loaded with essential nutrients needed for growth and development. Milk is high in protein, calcium, potassium, and vitamin D.

### Dairy milk delivers more!

- Builds strong bones and teeth
- Contains high-quality protein to help children grow and build strong muscles
- Keeps you fuller between meals and snacks
- Reduces risk of developing type 2 diabetes<sup>1</sup>

### CACFP Creditable Milk

All of these types of milk are equally wholesome and safe to drink. Whole milk is only creditable for 1 year olds. Low-fat and fat-free milk are only creditable for ages 2 and older. Lactose-free milk is creditable for all ages 1 and older.



**Whole Milk**



**1% Low-Fat Milk**



**Fat-Free Milk**



**Lactose-Free Milk**

Low-fat and fat-free milk have all the same essential nutrients found in whole milk, but with less fat. No water is added.

**Not all 'milk' is the same.** Drinks made with nuts, rice, or coconuts often contain little or no protein. Non-dairy beverages that are not nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk are not a creditable replacement for milk in the CACFP.

<sup>1</sup>ref: 1 Drouin-Chartier, JP et al., 2016







**One Year**  
Whole Milk  
*(unflavored)*



**2-5 Years**  
1% or Fat-Free  
*(unflavored)*



**6 & Older**  
1% or Fat-Free

## The Truth About Dairy Milk

- 1 Milk is an important beverage for nutrients and hydration, even when your child has a cold.
- 2 Milk is a natural, fresh product that comes from cows, traveling from a local dairy farm to your grocery store in about two days.
- 3 In pasteurized milk, natural hormones and bacteria are destroyed or are broken down and do not enter the body.

**Don't kids need fat to be healthy?** Yes, children ages 12 months through 23 months need fat for brain and nerve growth and development. After age 2, children need less fat in their diet as growth slows significantly.

**Isn't whole milk more nutritious than low-fat?** Low-fat milk is equally nutritious as whole milk. Key nutrients in milk like vitamin A, vitamin D and calcium are the same or a little higher in 1% and fat-free milk compared to whole milk.

**I'm concerned if I offer low-fat milk my kids won't drink it.** It is surprising how easily most children make the transition from whole milk to 1% or fat-free. Serving milk very cold may be the key to the transition.

**Are soy beverages creditable?** Some fortified soy beverages may be creditable and served in the CACFP when the parent has submitted a written request and the soy beverage is nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk.

## CACFP in the Know

- For newborn through 11 months, breastmilk and iron-fortified formula are reimbursable. Breastmilk is allowed at any age in the CACFP.
- Between the ages of 12 months and 13 months, iron-fortified formula may be served to children to help with the transition to whole milk.
- Between the ages of 24 months and 25 months, unflavored whole milk and unflavored reduced-fat (2%) milk may be served to help with the transition to fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1%) milk.
- Many non-dairy beverages may only be served when there is a medical statement on file. Contact your sponsoring organization or state agency for more information.
- Flavored milk is not allowed for children 5 years old and younger.
- Lactose-free and organic milk are reimbursable without a written request.



Learn more about healthy eating at [HealthyEating.org](http://HealthyEating.org).



Visit [cacfp.org](http://cacfp.org) for more helpful tools.

# Choose Yogurts That Are Lower in Sugar

All yogurts served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) must not have more than **23 grams of sugar** per 6 ounces.

There are many types of yogurt that meet this sugar limit. It is easy to find them by using the Nutrition Facts label and following the steps below.



**1** Use the Nutrition Facts label to find the **Serving Size**, in ounces (oz) or grams (g), of the yogurt.

**2** Find the **Total Sugars** line. Look at the number of grams (g) next to Total Sugars.

**3** Use the serving size identified in Step 1 to find the serving size of the yogurt in the table below.

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
4 servings per container	
<b>Serving size 8 oz (227g)</b>	
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 2g	<b>3%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	<b>8%</b>
<i>Trans Fat</i> 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 10mg	<b>3%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 21g	<b>7%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>17%</b>
<b>Total Sugars</b> 9g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars <b>0%</b>	
<b>Protein</b> 10g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 257mg	20%
Iron 0mg	0%
Potassium 344mg	8%

Serving Size* Ounces (oz)	Serving Size Grams (g) <small>(Use when the serving size is not listed in ounces)</small>	Total Sugars Grams (g)
If the serving size is:	If the serving size is:	Total sugars must not be more than:
2.25 oz	64 g	9 g
3.5 oz	99 g	13 g
4 oz	113 g	15 g
5.3 oz	150 g	20 g
6 oz	170 g	23 g
8 oz	227 g	31 g

**4** In the table, look at the number to the right of the serving size amount, under the "Total Sugars" column.  
**If the yogurt has that amount of sugar, or less, the yogurt meets the sugar limit.**

**TIP:** If the serving size says "one container," check the front of the package to see how many ounces or grams are in the container.

**Test Yourself:**

Does the yogurt above meet the sugar limit?  
*(Check your answer on the next page)*

Serving Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Sugars: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes     No



\*Serving sizes here refer to those commonly found for store-bought yogurts. Homemade yogurt is not creditable in the CACFP.





# Try It Out!



Use the “Sugar Limits in Yogurt” table below to help find yogurts you can serve at your site. Write down your favorite brands and other information in the “Yogurts To Serve in the CACFP” list. You can use this as a shopping list when buying yogurts to serve in your program.

## Sugar Limits in Yogurt

Serving Size Ounces (oz)	Serving Size Grams (g) (Use when the serving size is not listed in ounces)	Total Sugars Grams (g)	Serving Size Ounces (oz)	Serving Size Grams (g) (Use when the serving size is not listed in ounces)	Total Sugars Grams (g)
If the serving size is:	If the serving size is:	Total sugars must not be more than:	If the serving size is:	If the serving size is:	Total sugars must not be more than:
1 oz	28 g	4 g	4.75 oz	135 g	18 g
1.25 oz	35 g	5 g	5 oz	142 g	19 g
1.5 oz	43 g	6 g	5.25 oz	149 g	20 g
1.75 oz	50 g	7 g	5.3 oz	150 g	20 g
2 oz	57 g	8 g	5.5 oz	156 g	21 g
2.25 oz	64 g	9 g	5.75 oz	163 g	22 g
2.5 oz	71 g	10 g	6 oz	170 g	23 g
2.75 oz	78 g	11 g	6.25 oz	177 g	24 g
3 oz	85 g	11 g	6.5 oz	184 g	25 g
3.25 oz	92 g	12 g	6.75 oz	191 g	26 g
3.5 oz	99 g	13 g	7 oz	198 g	27 g
3.75 oz	106 g	14 g	7.25 oz	206 g	28 g
4 oz	113 g	15 g	7.5 oz	213 g	29 g
4.25 oz	120 g	16 g	7.75 oz	220 g	30 g
4.5 oz	128 g	17 g	8 oz	227 g	31 g

## Yogurts To Serve in the CACFP\*

Yogurt Brand	Flavor	Serving Size (oz or g)	Total Sugars (g):
<i>Yummy Yogurt</i>	<i>Vanilla</i>	<i>6 oz</i>	<i>13</i>

\*The amount of sugar in a yogurt might change. Even if you always buy the same brands and flavors of yogurt, be sure to check the serving size and amount of total sugars on the Nutrition Facts label to make sure they match what you have written in the list above.

**Answer to “Test Yourself” activity on page 1:** This yogurt has 9 grams of total sugars per 8 ounces (227 grams). The maximum amount of total sugars allowed in 8 ounces of yogurt is 31 grams. 9 is less than 31, so this yogurt meets the sugar limit.

# Identifying Whole Grain-Rich

The USDA CACFP requires that at least one serving of grains each day contains a whole grain-rich component. Foods that meet the whole grain-rich criteria are foods that contain at least 50% whole grains and the remaining grains in the food are enriched, or are 100% whole grain.

Here are a few ways to help identify if a product is whole grain-rich. As long as the product meets **AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SIX METHODS**, described below, it is considered whole grain-rich.

## #1 FOOD IS LABELED WHOLE WHEAT & MEETS FDA'S STANDARD OF IDENTITY

WGR<sup>1</sup>

Certain bread and pasta products specifically labeled "Whole Wheat" on the package and which conform to an FDA Standard of Identity can be considered whole grain-rich.

An **FDA STANDARD OF IDENTITY** is a set of rules for what a certain product must contain or may contain to legally be labeled with that product name.

**ONLY** breads and pastas with these exact product names conform to FDA's Standard of Identity and can be considered whole grain-rich using this method:

### BREADS

- whole wheat bread
- entire wheat bread
- graham bread
- whole wheat rolls
- entire wheat rolls
- graham rolls
- whole wheat buns
- entire wheat buns
- graham buns

### PASTAS

- whole wheat macaroni
- whole wheat spaghetti
- whole wheat vermicelli
- whole wheat macaroni product



**NOTE:** Manufacturers may label their food with similar terms to FDA's Standard of Identity. Watch for terms such as, "whole grain," "made with whole grain," "made with whole wheat," or "contains whole grains." These terms do not indicate an FDA Standard of Identity for whole wheat products.

## #2 FOOD IS FOUND ON ANY STATE AGENCY'S WIC-APPROVED WHOLE GRAIN FOOD LIST

# WIC

Women • Infants • Children

The product is found on **ANY** State agency's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)-approved whole grain food list. Any grain product found on a State agency's WIC-approved whole grain food list meets CACFP whole grain-rich criteria.

**NOTE:** Complete product guides identifying all WIC creditable food products can be found on State agency websites.

WGR<sup>2</sup>



**Whole Grains**

**Whole-Wheat Bread** **WIC<sup>TM</sup>**

Look for the Pink WIC Sticker

- 16 oz. (1 lb.) loaves
- 100% whole-wheat

**NOT WIC APPROVED:** Sugar-free.

**Brown Rice** **WIC<sup>TM</sup>**

Look for the Pink WIC Sticker

- 16 oz. (1 lb.) package

**NOT WIC APPROVED:** White rice, added seasonings, sugar, fat, oil, or salt.

**Tortillas** **WIC<sup>TM</sup>**

Look for the Pink WIC Sticker

- 16 oz. (1 lb.) package
- Yellow or white-corn
- 100% whole-wheat refrigerated or shelf

**NOT WIC APPROVED:** White-flour tortillas.

**Oatmeal**

Choose These Brands

- 16 oz. (1 lb.) box or bag
- Yellow or white-corn
- 100% whole-wheat refrigerated or shelf
- Any shape such as bows, elbows, penne, rotini, shells, spaghetti and spirals

**Store Brands**

- America's Choice
- Central Market (H-E-B)
- Full Circle
- Great Value
- H-E-B Organics
- Kroger
- Natural Directions
- O Organics
- Sharfline
- Simple Truth

**National Brands**

- Barilla
- Hodgson Mill
- Raccontio
- Ronzoni Healthy Harvest

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# Identifying Whole Grain-Rich

## #3

### FDA STATEMENT



One of the following FDA statements is included on the labeling:

*"Diets rich in whole grain foods and other plant foods and low in total fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers."*

*"Diets rich in whole grain foods and other plant foods, and low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may help reduce the risk of heart disease."*

FNS is allowing the FDA whole grain health claims to be sufficient documentation to demonstrate compliance with the whole grain-rich criteria in the CACFP, **ONLY**.



## #4

### RULE OF THREE

The first ingredient (second if after water) must be whole grain, and the next two grain ingredients (if any) must be whole grains, enriched grains, bran, or germ. Any grain derivatives may be disregarded. Any non-creditable grain ingredients that are labeled 2% or less are considered insignificant and may also be disregarded.

(reference NCA's Identifying Grain Ingredients for list of creditable grains)

#1 Whole Grain      2nd Grain Ingredient

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole Wheat Flour, Enriched Wheat Flour (Flour, Niacin, Reduced Iron, Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid), Vegetable Oils (Canola And/ Or Sunflower), Cheddar Cheese ([Cultured Milk, Salt, Enzymes], Annatto), Salt, Contains 2 Percent Or Less Of: Yeast Extract, Natural Flavor, Paprika, Spices (Celery), Baking Soda, Monocalcium Phosphate, Dehydrated Onions, Annatto Extract For Color.  
**CONTAINS: WHEAT, MILK**

There is no 3rd grain ingredient.

WGR<sup>4</sup>

## DISREGARDED INGREDIENTS

Disregarded ingredients may be ignored, as these ingredients are not included in the rule of three. Grains that can be disregarded are either:

1. Any grain derivatives, such as wheat gluten, wheat starch, wheat dextrin, corn starch, corn dextrin, rice starch, tapioca starch, or modified food starch.
2. Any grain ingredients that are listed as "less than 2%..." of the product weight.

#1 Whole Grain

Grain Derivative

**INGREDIENTS** Whole Wheat Flour, Filtered Water, Vital Wheat Gluten, Brown Sugar. Contains 2% Or Less Of The Following: Wheat Fiber, Cultured Wheat Starch, Vinegar, Inulin, Yeast, Oat Fiber, Soybean Oil, Salt, Soy Lecithin, Barley Malt Powder, Enzyme Blend (Wheat Flour, Dextrose, Natural Enzymes), Ascorbic Acid.

Listed after "Less than 2%..." statement

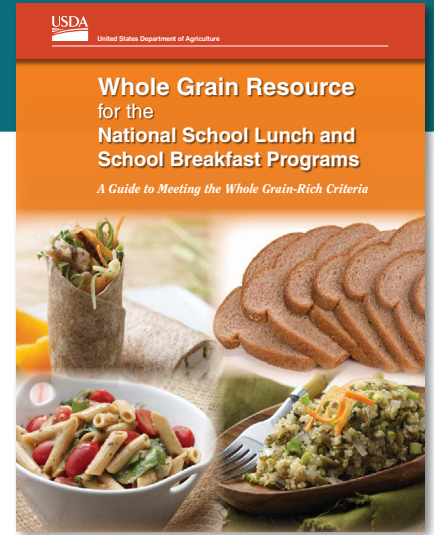


# Identifying Whole Grain-Rich

## #5 FOOD MEETS THE WHOLE GRAIN-RICH CRITERIA UNDER THE NSLP

Use of the National School Lunch Program whole grain-rich criteria may ease menu planning and purchasing for at-risk afterschool or CACFP child care programs. The NSLP whole grain-rich criteria apply for all grain products with the exception of grain-based desserts, which are not creditable under CACFP.

WGR<sup>5</sup>



Available to download at [cacfp.org](http://cacfp.org) and the USDA FNS website.

## #6 MANUFACTURER DOCUMENTATION OR STANDARDIZED RECIPE

Proper documentation from a manufacturer or a standardized recipe can also demonstrate that whole grains are the primary grain ingredient by weight.

WGR<sup>6</sup>

This guide is meant to be used to identify CACFP Creditable **WHOLE GRAIN-RICH** products.



## What about cereal?

WGR<sup>C</sup>

If a ready-to-eat breakfast cereal has a whole grain as the first ingredient (or second after water), and it is fortified, it also meets the whole grain-rich criteria.

#1 Whole Grain

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole Grain Oats, Corn Starch, Sugar, Salt, Tripotassium Phosphate, Vitamin E (Mixed Tocopherols) Added to Preserve Freshness.

**VITAMINS AND MINERALS:** Calcium Carbonate, Iron and Zinc (Mineral Nutrients), Vitamin C (Sodium Ascorbate), a B Vitamin (Niacinamide), Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine Hydrochloride), Vitamin A (Palmitate), Vitamin B1 (Thiamin Mononitrate), a B Vitamin (Folic Acid), Vitamin B12, Vitamin D3.

Fortified



### Don't forget...

Not only does a ready-to-eat breakfast cereal have to meet the above criteria but it also has to meet the sugar limits in order to be creditable in the first place.

**Cheerios**  
**Nutrition Facts**  
 Serving Size 1 cup (28g) Children Under 4 - 3/4 cup (21g)  
 Servings Per Container about 12 Children Under 4 - about 16

Amount Per Serving	Cheerios	with skim milk	Cal for Children under 4
<b>Calories</b>	100	150	80
Calories from Fat	15	20	10
<b>% Daily Value**</b>			
<b>Total Fat</b> 2g <sup>†</sup>	3%	3%	1.5g
Saturated Fat 0.5g	3%	3%	0g
Trans Fat 0g			0g
Polysaturated Fat 0.5g			0.5g
Monosaturated Fat 0.5g			0.5g
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	0%	1%	0mg
<b>Sodium</b> 140mg	6%	8%	105mg
<b>Potassium</b> 180mg	8%	11%	135mg
<b>Total Carb</b> 20g	7%	9%	15g
Dietary Fiber 3g	11%	11%	0g
Soluble Fiber 1g			1g
Sugars 1g			1g
Other Carbohydrate 15g			12g
<b>Protein</b> 3g			2g
<b>% Daily Value**</b>			
Protein			9%
Vitamin A	10%	15%	10%
Vitamin C	10%	10%	10%
Calcium	10%	25%	8%
Iron	45%	45%	50%
Vitamin D			6%
Vitamin B1			25%
Vitamin B2			25%
Vitamin B6			25%
Vitamin B12			25%
Vitamin E			25%

**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Oats, Corn Starch, Sugar, Salt, Tripotassium Phosphate, Vitamin E (Mixed Tocopherols) Added to Preserve Freshness, Calcium Carbonate, Iron and Zinc (mineral nutrients), Vitamin C (sodium ascorbate), a B Vitamin (niacinamide), Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine hydrochloride), Vitamin A (palmitate), Vitamin B1 (thiamin mononitrate), a B Vitamin (folic acid), Vitamin B12, Vitamin D3.

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**GLUTEN FREE**

Not made with genetically modified ingredients. Trace amounts of genetically modified ingredients may be present due to potential cross contact during manufacturing and shipping.

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Exchange: 1 1/2 slices  
 Based on Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and American Diabetes Association criteria  
 This package is used by weight, not by volume. You can be assured of proper weight even though some settling of contents normally occurs during shipment and handling.  
 #3842756123 SSS 3880456123

# GRAINS 101



**BRAN** is the seed husk or outer coating of cereal grains such as wheat, rye, and oats. The bran can be mechanically removed from the flour or meal by sifting or bolting.

**CREDITABLE GRAINS** represents all of the grain ingredients in a product that are creditable towards the grains component; they include whole grains or enriched meal and/or flour.

**ENRICHED** means that the product conforms to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's, (FDA) Standard of Identity for levels of iron, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, and folic acid. The terms "enriched," "fortified," or similar terms indicate the addition of one or more vitamins or minerals or protein to a food, unless an applicable Federal regulation requires the use of specific words or statements.

**FLOUR** is the product derived by finely grinding and bolting (sifting) wheat or other grains. Flour may be made from all grains (wheat, rye, corn, etc.).



**GERM** is the vitamin-rich embryo of the grain kernel. The germ can be separated before milling for use as a cereal or food supplement.

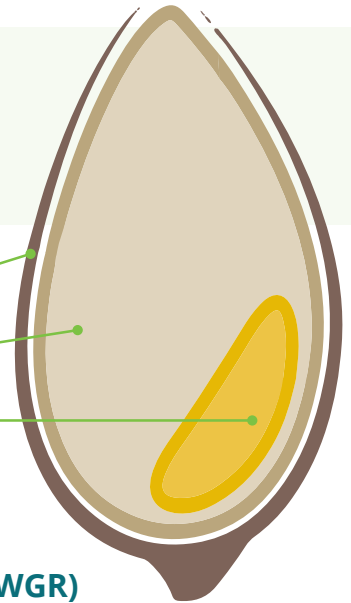
**PRIMARY GRAIN INGREDIENT** is the first grain ingredient listed in the ingredient statement.

**WHOLE GRAIN** contains all parts of the grain kernel which includes the bran, germ and endosperm.

**Bran**  
"Outer shell" protects seed  
*Fiber, B vitamins, trace minerals*

**Endosperm**  
Provides energy  
*Carbohydrates, protein*

**Germ**  
Nourishment for the seed  
*Antioxidants, vitamin E, B-vitamins*



## WHOLE GRAIN-RICH (WGR)

is the term designated by USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to indicate that the grain components in a product are at least 50 percent whole grain, with the remaining grains being enriched. This term only refers to FNS criteria for meeting the grain requirements for CACFP.

## Identifying Whole Grain-Rich



# Identifying Grain Ingredients

## WHOLE GRAINS

### CORN

- Whole Corn
- Whole Grain Corn
- Whole Grain Corn Flour

### OATS

- Instant Oatmeal
- Oat Groats
- Old Fashion Oats
- Quick Cooking Oats
- Steel Cut Oats
- Whole Grain Oat Flour

### RICE

- Brown Rice
- Sprouted Brown Rice
- Wild Rice

### RYE

- Rye Groats
- Sprouted Whole Rye
- Whole Rye Flour

### WHEAT

- Bulgur
- Cracked Wheat
- Graham Flour
- Sprouted Whole Wheat
- Wheat Berries
- Wheat Groats
- Whole Durum Flour
- Whole Grain Wheat Flakes
- Whole Wheat Flour

### OTHER WHOLE GRAINS

- Amaranth
- Amaranth Flour
- Buckwheat
- Buckwheat Flour
- Buckwheat Groats
- Millet
- Millet Flour
- Quinoa
- Sorghum
- Sorghum Flour
- Spelt Berries
- Sprouted Buckwheat
- Sprouted Einkorn
- Sprouted Spelt
- Teff
- Teff Flour
- Triticale
- Triticale Flour
- Whole Einkorn Berries
- Whole Grain Einkorn Flour
- Whole Grain Spelt Flour

## CREDITABLE GRAINS

- Any Whole Grain Above
- Enriched Grains
- Bran or Germ  
*Creditable in CACFP, SFSP & afterschool snacks only.*

*These ingredients are not whole nor enriched and cannot be one of the first 3 ingredients when identifying whole grain-rich products.*

### NON-CREDITABLE GRAINS

- Barley Malt
- Corn
- Corn Fiber
- Degerminated Corn Meal
- Farina
- Oat Fiber
- Semolina
- Yellow Corn Meal

### NON-CREDITABLE FLOURS

- not enriched*
- Any Bean Flour
  - Any Nut Flour
  - Bromated Flour
  - Durum Flour
  - Malted Barley Flour
  - Potato Flour
  - Rice Flour
  - Wheat Flour
  - White Flour
  - Yellow Corn Flour



## DISREGARDED INGREDIENTS

Disregarded ingredients may be ignored, as these ingredients are not included in the rule of three. Grains that can be disregarded are either:

1. Any grain ingredients that are listed as "less than 2%..." of the product weight.
2. Any grain derivatives, such as wheat gluten, wheat starch, wheat dextrin, corn starch, corn dextrin, rice starch, tapioca starch, or modified food starch.

*Please note that this list is not meant to be exhaustive, and there may be other items that qualify, or are not creditable, that are not listed above. Check with your sponsor and/or state agency.*



# Identifying Whole Grain-Rich

# In the Aisles

## FOOD IS LABELED AS "WHOLE WHEAT" AND MEETS FDA STANDARD OF IDENTITY



### RULE OF THREE

The first ingredient (second after water) must be whole grain, and the next two grain ingredients (if any) must be whole grains, enriched grains, bran, or germ.



**Ingredients:** White Quinoa,<sup>1</sup> Red Quinoa,<sup>2</sup> Black Quinoa<sup>3</sup>



**Ingredients:** Whole Wheat Flour,<sup>1</sup> Enriched Bleached Flour,<sup>2</sup> Bleached Wheat Flour, Niacin, Reduced Iron, Thiamin Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid, Leavening (Sodium Bicarbonate, Sodium Aluminum Phosphate, Monocalcium Phosphate), Brown Sugar, Sugar, Dried Molasses, Salt, Wheat Germ,<sup>3</sup> Hydroxylated Soy Lecithin, Soy Flour.



**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Wheat Flour,<sup>1</sup> Canola Oil, Sugar, Corn Starch Malt Syrup (From Corn And Barley), Salt, Refiner's Syrup, Leavening (Calcium Phosphate And Baking Soda). Bht Added To Packaging Material To Preserve Freshness.  
2\* considered disregarded



**Ingredients:** Organic Whole Wheat Flour,<sup>1</sup> Organic Wheat Flour,<sup>2</sup> Organic Vegetable Oil (Organic Expeller Pressed Sunflower Oil and Organic Expeller Pressed Palm Fruit Oil), Organic Whole Flax Flour, Organic honey, Organic Whole Oat flour, Organic Sesame Seeds, Organic Evaporated Cane Syrup...

**DOES NOT MEET WGR<sup>4</sup>**  
2nd grain is not whole or enriched.

### CEREAL 1st grain ingredient must be whole grain and cereal is fortified with Vitamins & Minerals.



**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Wheat, Sugar, Contains 2% or Less of Brown Rice Syrup, Gelatin, BHT for Freshness.

**Vitamins and Minerals:** Reduced Iron, Niacinamide, Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine Hydrochloride), Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin), Vitamin B1 (Thiamin Hydrochloride), Zinc Oxide, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12.



**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Wheat, Corn, Sugar, Whole Grain Rolled Oats, Brown Sugar, Rice, Canola Oil, Wheat Flour, Malted Barley Flour, Corn Syrup, Salt, Whey (from Milk), Malted Corn and Barley Syrup, Honey, Caramel Color, Natural and Artificial Flavor, Annatto Extract (Color), BHT Added to Packaging Material to Preserve Product Freshness.

**Vitamins and Minerals:** Reduced Iron, Niacinamide, Vitamin B6, Vitamin A Palmitate, Riboflavin (Vitamin B2), Thiamin Mononitrate (Vitamin B1), Zinc Oxide (Source of Zinc), Folic Acid, Vitamin B12, Vitamin D3.



**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Corn, Corn Meal, Sugar, Canola Oil, Salt, Brown Sugar Syrup, Tricalcium Phosphate, Vegetable and Fruit Juice Color, Baking Soda, Citric Acid, Natural Flavor. Vitamin E (Mixed Tocopherols) Added to Preserve Freshness.

**Vitamins and Minerals:** Calcium Carbonate, Iron and Zinc (Mineral Nutrients), Vitamin C (Sodium Ascorbate), a B Vitamin (Niacinamide), Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine Hydrochloride), Vitamin B1 (Thiamin Mononitrate), Vitamin A (Palmitate), Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin), a B Vitamin (Folic Acid), Vitamin B12, Vitamin D3.



**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Oats\*, Cane Sugar\*, Sunflower Oil\*, Rice\*, Whole Grain Quinoa\*, Whole Grain Spelt\*, Kamut Brand Khorasan Wheat\*, Molasses\*, Sea Salt, Cinnamon\*, Natural Flavor\*. Vitamin E (Mixed Tocopherols) Added to Preserve Freshness.\*Organic.

**DOES NOT MEET WGR<sup>c</sup>**  
Not fortified with Vitamins & Minerals.



Visit us at [www.cacfp.org](http://www.cacfp.org) for more information. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

\* These products may meet another standard for identifying whole grain-rich but do not in the section noted.



# Identifying Cereal Sugar Limits



Here are three ways to determine if a breakfast cereal is within the CACFP sugar limit. As long as a breakfast cereal meets the sugar limit using **AT LEAST ONE OF THESE METHODS** described below, it is considered within the sugar limit.



## 1 WIC

Women • Infants • Children

Use your State agency's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) approved breakfast cereal list.

Product Example: Dora the Explorer

\* confirm with your states WIC approved cereal list.



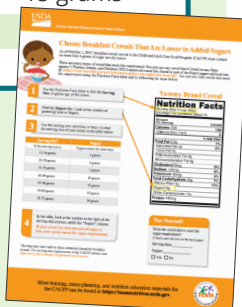
## 2

Use USDA's Team Nutrition training worksheet "Choose Breakfast Cereals That Are Low in Added Sugar."

The worksheet includes a chart with common breakfast cereal serving sizes and the maximum amount of sugar the breakfast cereal may contain per serving.

### ALLOWABLE SUGAR LIMITS

SERVING SIZE	SUGARS
If the serving size is:	cannot be more than:
8-11 grams	2 grams
12-16 grams	3 grams
17-21 grams	4 grams
22-25 grams	5 grams
26-30 grams	6 grams ✓
31-35 grams	7 grams
36-40 grams	8 grams
41-44 grams	9 grams
45-49 grams	10 grams
50-54 grams	11 grams
55-58 grams	12 grams
59-63 grams	13 grams
64-68 grams	14 grams
69-73 grams	15 grams
74-77 grams	
78-82 grams	

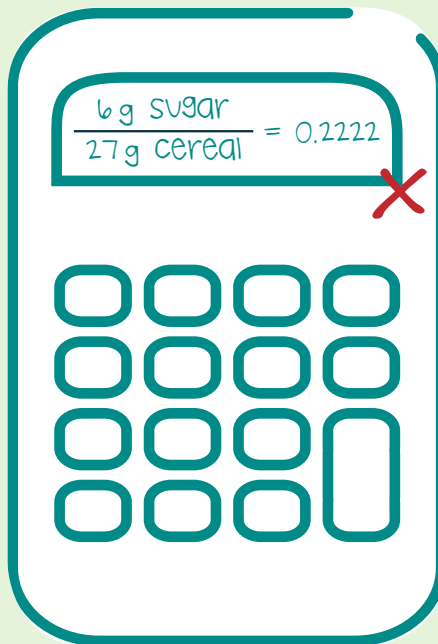


## 3

Use the Nutrition Facts label on the breakfast cereal packaging to calculate the sugar content per dry ounce.

- 1) Find the serving size in grams at the top of the label and the sugars listed towards the middle.
- 2) Divide the total sugars by the serving size in grams.

If the answer is equal to or less than 0.212, then the cereal is within the required sugar limit and may be creditable in CACFP.



**GRAMS OF SUGAR PER SERVING** if  $\leq 0.212$   
**GRAMS OF CEREAL PER SERVING** it is creditable



Amount Per Serving	Dora the Explorer
<b>Calories</b>	100
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 23g	<b>8%</b>
Dietary Fiber 3g	<b>11%</b>
<b>Sugars</b> 6g	
Other Carbohydrate 14g	
<b>Protein</b> 1g	

Calories	2,000	45%
Iron	18mg	25%
Vitamin D	25%	30%
Thiamin	25%	35%
Riboflavin	25%	25%
Niacin	25%	25%
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub>	25%	25%
Folic Acid	50%	50%
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub>	25%	35%
Phosphorus	2%	15%
Magnesium	2%	4%
Zinc	25%	30%

\* Amount in cereal. A serving of cereal plus skim milk provides 1.5g total fat, less than 5mg cholesterol, 220mg sodium, 260mg potassium, 29g total carbohydrate (12g sugars), and 6g protein.  
 \*\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:  
 Calories 2,000 80g  
 Total Fat Less than 65g 25g  
 Sat Fat Less than 20g 300mg  
 Cholesterol Less than 300mg 2,400mg  
 Sodium Less than 400mg 3,500mg  
 Potassium 300mg 375g  
 Total Carbohydrate 25g 30g  
 Dietary Fiber

**Ingredients:** Whole Grain Corn, Corn Meal, Sugar, Corn Bran, Corn Syrup, Canola Oil, Salt, Cinnamon, Baking Soda, Vitamin E (mixed tocopherols) Added to Preserve Freshness.

**Vitamins and Minerals:** Calcium Carbonate, Iron and Zinc (mineral nutrients), Vitamin C (sodium ascorbate), A B Vitamin (niacinamide), Vitamin B<sub>6</sub> (pyridoxine hydrochloride), Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (cobalamin), Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> (thiamin mononitrate), Vitamin A (palmitate), A B Vitamin (folic acid), Vitamin B<sub>2</sub>, Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>.

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(https://www.fns.usda.gov/tv/cacfp-meal-pattern-training-tools)



**Product Example:** Dora the Explorer meets one of the three methods, therefore, this product is CACFP creditable.

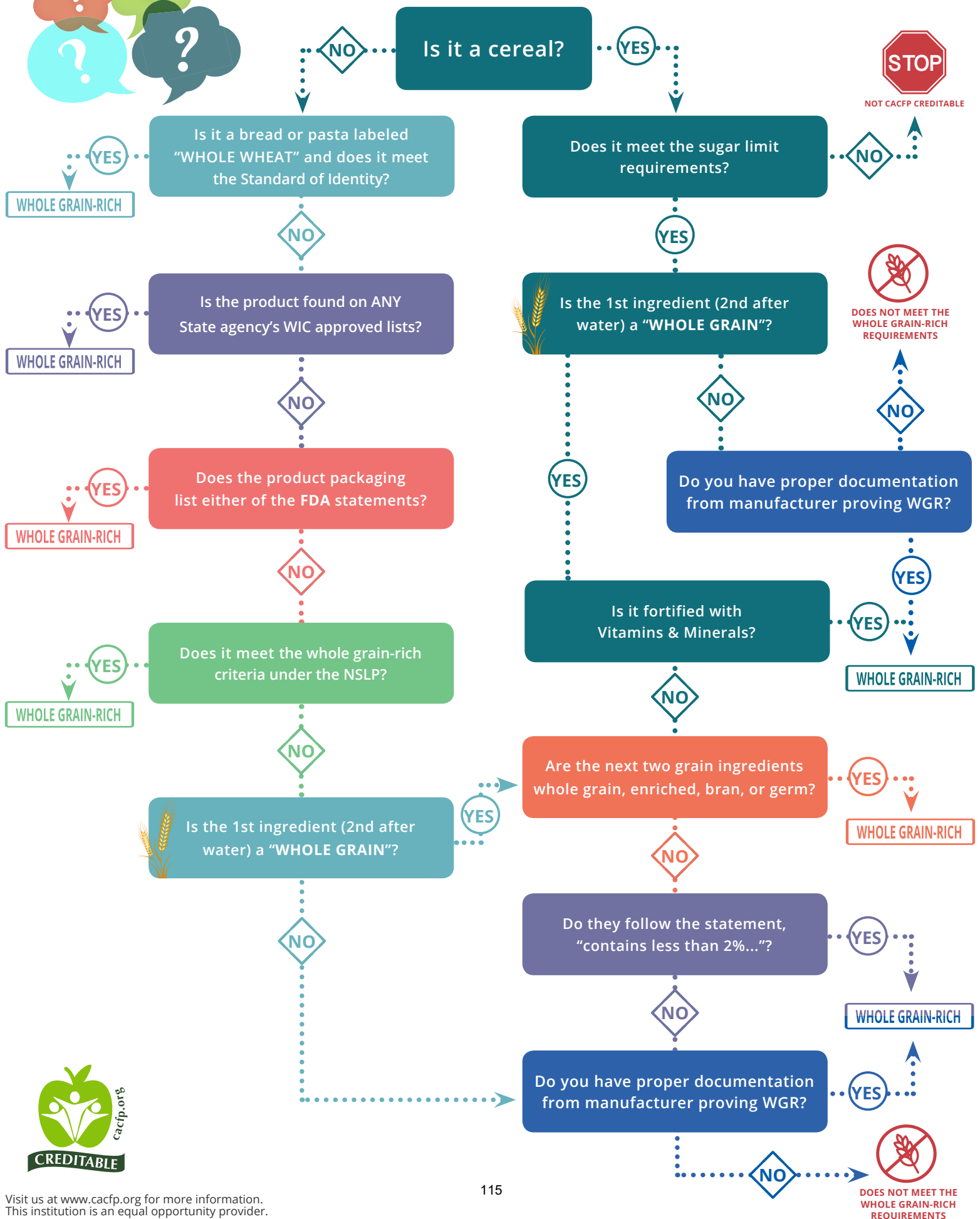
Disclosure: The amount of sugar in a cereal might change. Even if you always buy the same brands and types of cereal, be sure to check the serving size and amount of sugars on the Nutrition Facts label to make sure they match what you have written in the list above. All cereals served must be whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified.

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# Wondering if your food is **WHOLE GRAIN-RICH**?



# Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the Child and Adult Care Food Program Using the Ingredient List

The **ingredient list** is printed on the food packaging of products. This list includes information on flours, grains, and other ingredients that are in the product. On the ingredient list, the ingredients are listed in order of quantity. If a whole grain is listed first, you know there is more of that whole grain than anything else in the food.

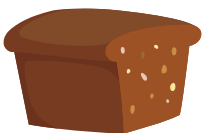
In the United States Department of Agriculture’s Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), you can identify grains that are whole grain-rich by looking at the first three **grain** ingredients that appear on the ingredient list. This method is known as the *Rule of Three*. If the ingredient list does not include three grain ingredients, you only have to look at the grain ingredients that are present. Some whole grain-rich foods may have only one grain ingredient.

In the CACFP, at least one offering of grains per day must be whole grain-rich for children and adults.\*

## Step-by-Step Guide To Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods Using the *Rule of Three*

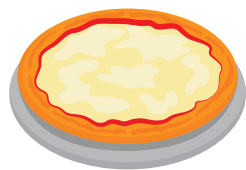


### STEP 1 Find the ingredient list



This ingredient list is for **bread**. In this example, you would look at the full ingredient list to determine if the bread is whole grain-rich.

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole-wheat flour, water, yeast, brown sugar, wheat gluten, contains 2% or less of each of the following: salt, dough conditioners, soybean oil, vinegar, cultured wheat flour, citric acid.



The ingredient list shown here is for a frozen **cheese pizza**. Because pizza is a combination food, the ingredients for all the foods within the cheese pizza, such as the crust, cheese, and sauce, are listed within one ingredient list. In this example, you would look at the ingredients for the crust, to determine if the grain component of this food is whole grain-rich.

**INGREDIENTS: Crust:** Whole-wheat flour, enriched wheat flour (bleached wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), wheat bran, water, soybean oil, dextrose, baking powder, yeast, salt, dough conditioners, wheat gluten, contains less than 2% of each of the following: vegetable shortening, sesame flour, preservatives.  
**Shredded mozzarella cheese:** Pasteurized part skim milk, cheese cultures, salt, enzymes. **Sauce:** Water, tomato paste, pizza seasoning, modified food starch.

\*During the COVID-19 public health emergency, some State agencies may have opted into School Year 2021-2022 meal pattern waivers. Additional information on these waivers is available at: [fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/cn-2021-22-waivers-and-flexibilities](https://fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/cn-2021-22-waivers-and-flexibilities).



## STEP 2 Simplify the ingredient list

Look at the “Disregarded Ingredients” list below. Do not consider these ingredients. Some sound like grains, so it can be helpful to cross them out at the beginning.

### Disregarded Ingredients:

- Cellulose fiber
- Corn dextrin
- Corn starch
- Modified food starch
- Rice starch
- Tapioca starch
- Water
- Wheat dextrin
- Wheat gluten
- Wheat starch
- Any ingredients that appear after the phrase, “Contains 2% or less of...” or “Contains less than 2% of...”

**INGREDIENTS: Crust:** Whole-wheat flour, enriched wheat flour (bleached wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), wheat bran, ~~water~~, soybean oil, dextrose, baking powder, yeast, salt, dough conditioners, ~~wheat gluten, contains less than 2% of each of the following: vegetable shortening, sesame flour, preservatives.~~

▲ This ingredient list shows some ingredients that can be crossed out to simplify the list.

## STEP 3 Look at the first ingredient

If you have a combination food, like a pizza, look at the part of the ingredient list that refers to the grain product. For this food, the grain product is the pizza crust.

### Is the first ingredient a **whole-grain ingredient**?

**YES** ✓ If the first ingredient is whole-grain and the food is not a ready-to-eat breakfast cereal, **go to Step 4 on page 3.**

**YES** ✓ If the first ingredient is whole-grain and the food is a ready-to-eat breakfast cereal, **see “Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Breakfast Cereals in the CACFP” on page 7.**

**NO** ✗ If the first ingredient is not a whole-grain ingredient, then this food is not creditable as a whole grain-rich food in the CACFP using the *Rule of Three*.\*

**NO** ✗ It is possible that the food includes several whole-grain ingredients. When added together, these grains may meet the whole grain-rich requirement. In this case, you would need to request additional information from the manufacturer.

🔍 See the **Whole-Grain Ingredients** chart on page 5 for some common whole grains. Make sure the first grain ingredient is not listed on the **Enriched Grain Ingredients, Bran or Germ Ingredients, or Non-Creditable Grains or Flours** charts on page 6.

**INGREDIENTS: Crust:** **Whole-wheat flour,** enriched wheat flour (bleached wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), wheat bran, ~~water~~, soybean oil, dextrose, baking powder, yeast, salt, dough conditioners, ~~wheat gluten, contains less than 2% of each of the following: vegetable shortening, sesame flour, preservatives.~~

▲ The first grain ingredient is “**whole-wheat flour**,” which is a **whole-grain ingredient**.



\*This food might be creditable as a grain that is not being served as a whole grain-rich food. See the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* (<https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov>) for information on how to determine if an enriched grain is creditable towards the grain component in the CACFP.

## STEP 4 Look for the second grain ingredient

Does the food have another grain ingredient?

**NO X** If the food does not have any other grain ingredients, you can **stop here**. The food is whole grain-rich!

**YES ✓** If so, is the second grain ingredient whole-grain, enriched, or bran or germ? Make sure the second grain ingredient is not listed on the “*Non-Creditable Grains or Flours*” chart.

**YES ✓** If the second grain ingredient is whole-grain, enriched, or bran or germ, go to Step 5 below.

**NO X** If the second grain ingredient is **not** whole-grain, enriched, or bran or germ, then this food is not creditable as a whole grain-rich food in the CACFP using the *Rule of Three*.\*

**INGREDIENTS: Crust:** **Whole-wheat flour, enriched wheat flour** (bleached wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), wheat bran, water, soybean oil, dextrose, baking powder, yeast, salt, dough conditioners, ~~wheat gluten, contains less than 2% of each of the following: vegetable shortening, sesame flour, preservatives.~~

▲ The second grain ingredient is “**enriched wheat flour**,” which is an **enriched grain ingredient**. For information on flour made from more than one grain ingredient, see “Focus on Flour Blends” on page 4.

## STEP 5 Look for the third grain ingredient

Does the food have a third grain ingredient?

**NO X** If the food does not have any other grain ingredients, you can **stop here**. The food is whole grain-rich!

**YES ✓** If so, is the third grain ingredient whole-grain, enriched, or bran or germ? Make sure the third grain ingredient is not listed on the “*Non-Creditable Grains or Flours*” chart.

**YES ✓** If the third grain ingredient is whole-grain, enriched, or bran or germ, then this food is whole grain-rich! If your product has other grain ingredients, such as a fourth grain ingredient, you do not need to consider them.

**NO X** If the third grain ingredient is not whole-grain, enriched, bran, or germ, then this food is not creditable as a whole grain-rich food in the CACFP using the *Rule of Three*.\*

**INGREDIENTS: Crust:** **Whole-wheat flour, enriched wheat flour** (bleached wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), **wheat bran**, water, soybean oil, dextrose, baking powder, yeast, salt, dough conditioners, ~~wheat gluten, contains less than 2% of each of the following: vegetable shortening, sesame flour, preservatives.~~

▲ The third grain ingredient is “**wheat bran**,” which is a type of bran.

✓ This pizza crust is considered whole grain-rich because the first ingredient is **whole-grain**, the second grain ingredient is **enriched**, and the third ingredient is a type of **bran**.

## Focus on Flour Blends

You may see an ingredient list that includes a flour blend as an ingredient. The flour blend will be followed by a list of sub-ingredients that make up the flour blend. These sub-ingredients are shown in parenthesis. Treat these flour blends as one grain ingredient when applying the *Rule of Three*.

Find the first ingredient on the ingredient list.

If the first ingredient is a flour blend, all the ingredients in the flour blend must be whole-grain.

You can now proceed with examining the second and third grain ingredients as described on pages 2 and 3.

If the flour blend is the second or third grain ingredient, then the flour blend may be made up of whole grains, enriched grains, bran, and/or germ.



If the flour blend includes any non-creditable flours or grains, then the flour blend is not a creditable grain ingredient.

**INGREDIENTS:** **Whole grain flour** (whole-wheat flour, brown rice flour, whole grain oat flour), water, **flour blend** (graham flour, enriched wheat flour, enriched corn flour, wheat bran), yeast, salt.

- ▲ *This is an ingredient list for bread. This bread includes two flour blends: whole grain flour and a flour blend.*  
*The list of sub-ingredients in parenthesis tells you what grains are in the whole grain flour and the flour blend.*

**INGREDIENTS:** **Whole grain flour** (whole-wheat flour, brown rice flour, whole grain oat flour), water, flour blend (graham flour, enriched wheat flour, enriched corn flour, wheat bran), yeast, salt.

- ▲ *The whole grain flour is the first ingredient on this ingredient list.*

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain flour (**whole-wheat flour, brown rice flour, whole grain oat flour**), water, flour blend (graham flour, enriched wheat flour, enriched corn flour, wheat bran), yeast, salt.

- ▲ *The ingredients in the whole grain flour are whole-wheat flour, brown rice flour, and whole grain oat flour.*  
*All the ingredients in the whole grain flour are whole-grain, so the whole grain flour is considered whole grain-rich.*

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain flour (whole-wheat flour, brown rice flour, whole grain oat flour), water, **flour blend** (graham flour, enriched wheat flour, enriched corn flour, wheat bran), yeast, salt.

- ▲ *The second grain ingredient in this bread is the flour blend.*

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain flour (whole-wheat flour, brown rice flour, whole grain oat flour), water, flour blend (**graham flour, enriched wheat flour, enriched corn flour, wheat bran**), yeast, salt.

- ▲ *The flour blend contains whole-grain ingredients (graham flour), enriched ingredients (enriched wheat flour, enriched corn flour) and bran (wheat bran).*  
*This bread does not have a third grain ingredient.*
- ✓ *This bread is considered whole grain-rich because the first ingredient is whole-grain and the second grain ingredient is made from whole-grain, enriched, and bran ingredients.*

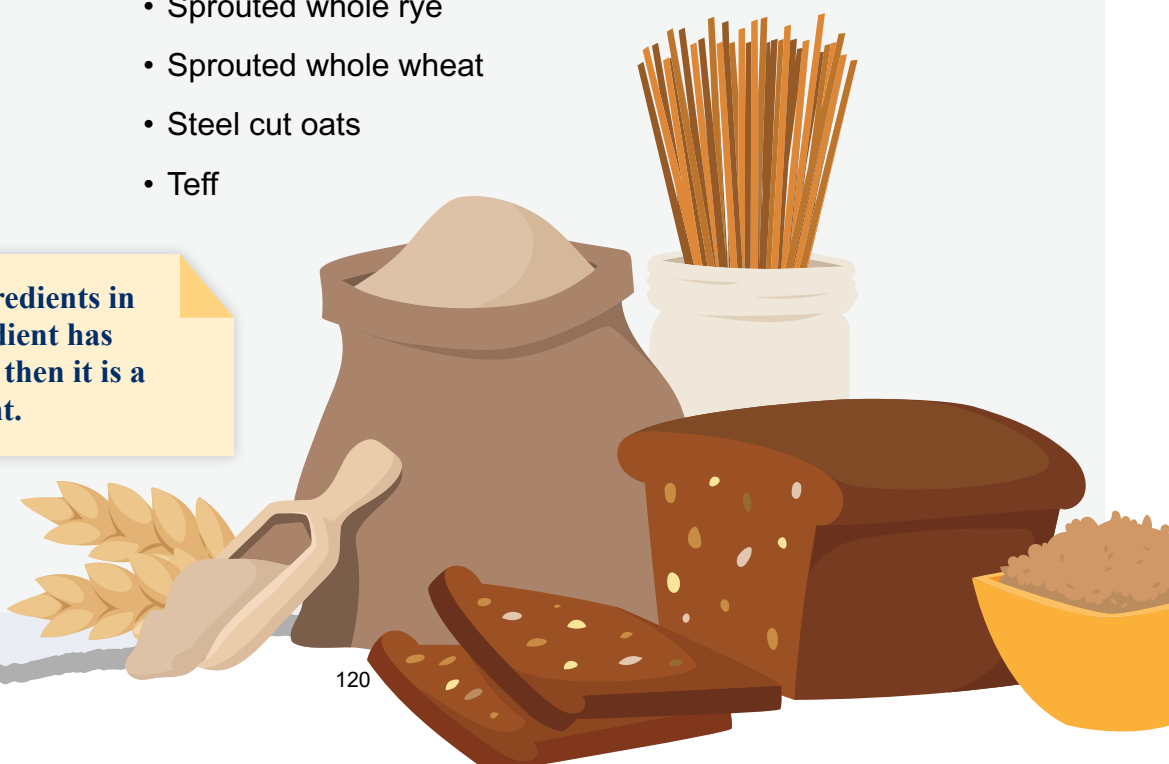
**INGREDIENTS:** Flour blend (durum flour, bromated flour, brown rice flour), water, salt.

- ✗ *This flour blend includes two non-creditable flours (durum flour and bromated flour), so the flour blend is not a creditable grain ingredient.*

# Whole-Grain Ingredients

- Amaranth
- Amaranth flour
- Brown rice
- Brown rice flour
- Buckwheat
- Buckwheat flour
- Buckwheat groats
- Bulgur
- Corn masa
- Corn treated with lime
- Cracked wheat
- Crushed wheat
- Dehulled barley
- Dehulled-barley flour
- Entire wheat flour
- Flaked rye
- Flaked wheat
- Graham flour
- Hominy
- Hominy grits
- Instant oatmeal
- Masa harina
- Millet
- Millet flour
- Nixtamalized corn flour/meal
- Oat groats
- Oats/oatmeal
- Old fashioned oats
- Popcorn
- Quick cooking oats
- Quinoa
- Rye berries
- Rye groats
- Sorghum
- Sorghum flour
- Spelt berries
- Sprouted brown rice
- Sprouted buckwheat
- Sprouted einkorn
- Sprouted spelt
- Sprouted wheat
- Sprouted whole rye
- Sprouted whole wheat
- Steel cut oats
- Teff
- Teff flour
- Triticale
- Triticale flour
- Wheat berries
- Wheat groats
- White whole wheat flour
- Whole corn
- Whole durum flour
- Whole grain corn
- Whole grain corn flour
- Whole grain oat flour
- Whole grain spelt flour
- Whole grain wheat
- Whole grain wheat flakes
- Whole grain wheat flour
- Whole rye flour
- Whole wheat flour
- Wild rice
- Wild rice flour

**In addition to the ingredients in this chart, if an ingredient has “whole” in front of it, then it is a whole-grain ingredient.**





# Enriched Grain Ingredients

- Enriched bromated flour
- Enriched corn flour
- Enriched durum flour
- Enriched durum wheat flour
- Enriched farina
- Enriched grits
- Enriched rice
- Enriched rice flour
- Enriched rye flour
- Enriched wheat flour
- Enriched white flour
- Other grains with the word “enriched” in front of it.



**In addition to the ingredients listed above, if the ingredient list states or includes the nutrients used to enrich the flour, then your product has enriched grains. For example, an ingredient list might read: “Durum flour (niacin, iron, riboflavin, folic acid, thiamin).” The nutrients listed in the parenthesis indicate that the durum flour is enriched.**

# Bran or Germ Ingredients

- Corn bran
- Oat bran
- Rice bran
- Rye bran
- Wheat bran
- Wheat germ

# Non-Creditable Grains or Flours

These foods cannot be one of the first three ingredients for whole grain-rich items.

- Barley malt
- Bean or legume flour (such as soy, chickpea, lentil, etc.)
- Bromated flour
- Corn
- Corn fiber
- Degermed corn
- Degerminated corn meal
- Durum flour
- Farina
- Grits
- Malted barley flour
- Nut or seed flour (any kind)
- Oat fiber
- Potato flour
- Rice flour
- Semolina
- Stone ground corn
- Tapioca flour
- Vegetable flour (any kind)
- Wheat flour
- White flour
- Yellow corn flour
- Yellow corn meal

## Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Breakfast Cereals in the CACFP



For ready-to-eat breakfast cereals only, if the first ingredient is whole-grain, and the cereal is fortified, then the cereal is whole grain-rich in the CACFP.

Remember to check that the cereal also meets the CACFP sugar limit. For more information on sugar limits for cereal, see “Choose Breakfast Cereals That Are Lower in Sugar” at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-training-worksheets-cacfp>.

### To determine if a ready-to-eat cereal is whole grain-rich:

#### STEP 1 Look at the first ingredient

Is the first ingredient a whole-grain ingredient?

**YES** ✓ If the first ingredient is whole-grain, go to Step 2.

**NO** ✗ If the first ingredient is not a whole grain, then this food is not creditable as a whole-grain-rich food in the CACFP using the *Rule of Three*.\*

#### Example 1

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain oat flour<sup>1</sup>, corn flour, sugar, salt, tripotassium phosphate, vitamin E. **Vitamins and Minerals**<sup>2</sup>: calcium carbonate, iron and zinc, vitamin C, vitamin B6, vitamin A, vitamin B12.

- ▲ 1. The first ingredient is “**whole grain oat flour**,” which is a **whole-grain ingredient**.
- 2. The presence of “**Vitamins and Minerals**” on the ingredient list indicates that this cereal is fortified.
- ✓ This breakfast cereal is whole grain-rich because the first ingredient is **whole-grain** and the cereal is **fortified**.

#### STEP 2 Look for fortification

Is the cereal fortified?

Look for the words “fortified” on the food package. You can also look at the ingredient list to see if it lists any vitamins and minerals that have been added to the product. Cereals that are not fortified would not have any added vitamins and minerals.

**YES** ✓ If the cereal is fortified, then this food is whole grain-rich! If your cereal has other grain ingredients, you do not need to consider them. See **Example 1**.

**NO** ✗ If the cereal has a whole grain as the first ingredient, but is not fortified, then follow the *Rule of Three* instructions on pages 1-3 to look at the second and third grain ingredients. See **Example 2**.

#### Example 2

**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain wheat<sup>1</sup>, wheat bran<sup>3</sup>, raisins, oat fiber<sup>4</sup>, sea salt.

- ▲ 1. The first ingredient is “**whole grain wheat**,” which is a **whole-grain ingredient**.
- 2. This food is not fortified. There are no vitamins and minerals on the ingredient list. Look at the second and third grain ingredients to see if the cereal is whole grain-rich.
- 3. The second grain ingredient is **wheat bran**, which is a type of **bran**.
- 4. The third grain ingredient is **oat fiber**, which is a **non-creditable ingredient**.
- ✗ This breakfast cereal is not whole grain-rich using the *Rule of Three* because the third grain ingredient is a non-creditable ingredient.

# Try It Out!

Look at the ingredient lists for the grain items below. Use the *Rule of Three* to determine if these items are whole grain-rich. Why or why not?

**A**

**Crackers:**  Yes  No

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain wheat flour, vegetable oil, enriched rye flour, cracked wheat.

**B**

**Bread:**  Yes  No

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**INGREDIENTS:** Flour blend (enriched flour, brown rice flour, whole grain oat flour), water, whole grain flour blend (graham flour, whole grain corn flour), wheat bran, yeast, salt.

**C**

**Ready-to-Eat Cereal:**

Yes  No

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**INGREDIENTS:** Whole grain corn, corn meal, sugar, corn bran, salt, brown sugar syrup. **Vitamins and Minerals:** calcium carbonate, iron, zinc, vitamin C, vitamin B6, vitamin B2, vitamin A, vitamin B12.

**Answer Key:**

**A**

Yes, these crackers are whole grain-rich.

**B**

No, the bread is not whole grain-rich.

**C**

Yes, this ready-to-eat cereal is whole grain-rich.

1. The first grain ingredient is whole grain wheat flour, which is a whole-grain ingredient.

2. The second grain ingredient is enriched rye flour, which is an enriched ingredient.

3. The third grain ingredient is cracked wheat, which is a whole-grain ingredient.

1. The first ingredient in this bread is a flour blend that contains enriched flour. If the first ingredient is a flour blend, all the grain ingredients in the flour blend must be whole-grain. Enriched flour is not a whole-grain ingredient.

2. The presence of "Vitamins and Minerals" on the ingredient list indicates that this cereal is fortified.



## Choose Breakfast Cereals That Are Lower in Sugar

All breakfast cereals served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) must not have more than **6 grams of sugar** per dry ounce.

There are many types of cereal that meet this sugar limit. You can use any cereal that is listed on any State agency's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)-approved cereal list. You can also find cereals that meet the sugar limit by using the Nutrition Facts label and following the steps below:

### Yummy Brand Cereal

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
15 servings per container	
<b>Serving size ¾ cup (30g)</b>	
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 0.5g	<b>1%</b>
Saturated Fat 0g	<b>0%</b>
<i>Trans Fat</i> 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 140mg	<b>6%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 22g	<b>7%</b>
Dietary Fiber 3g	<b>11%</b>
<b>Total Sugars</b> 5g	
Includes 4g Added Sugars	<b>8%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 3g	

**1** Use the Nutrition Facts label to find the **Serving Size**, in grams (g), of the cereal.

**2** Find the **Total Sugars** line. Look at the number of grams (g) next to Total Sugars.

**3** Use the serving size identified in Step 1 to find the serving size of the cereal in the table below.

Serving Size*	Total Sugars
If the serving size is:	Total sugars must not be more than:
12-16 grams	3 grams
26-30 grams	6 grams
31-35 grams	7 grams
45-49 grams	10 grams
55-58 grams	12 grams
59-63 grams	13 grams
74-77 grams	16 grams

**4** In the table, look at the number to the right of the serving size amount, under the "Total Sugars" column.

**If the cereal has that amount of sugar, or less, the cereal meets the sugar limit.**

### Test Yourself:

Does the cereal above meet the sugar limit?  
(Check your answer on the next page)

Serving Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Sugars: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes     No

\*Serving sizes here refer to those commonly found for breakfast cereals.



# Try It Out!



Use the “Sugar Limits in Cereal” table below to help find cereals you can serve at your site. Write down your favorite brands and other information in the “Cereals To Serve in the CACFP” list. You can use this as a shopping list when buying cereals to serve in your program.

## Sugar Limits in Cereal

Serving Size	Total Sugars	Serving Size	Total Sugars
If the serving size is:	Total sugars must not be more than:	If the serving size is:	Total sugars must not be more than:
0-2 grams	0 grams	50-54 grams	11 grams
3-7 grams	1 gram	55-58 grams	12 grams
8-11 grams	2 grams	59-63 grams	13 grams
12-16 grams	3 grams	64-68 grams	14 grams
17-21 grams	4 grams	69-73 grams	15 grams
22-25 grams	5 grams	74-77 grams	16 grams
26-30 grams	6 grams	78-82 grams	17 grams
31-35 grams	7 grams	83-87 grams	18 grams
36-40 grams	8 grams	88-91 grams	19 grams
41-44 grams	9 grams	92-96 grams	20 grams
45-49 grams	10 grams	97-100 grams	21 grams

## Cereals To Serve in the CACFP\*

Cereal Brand	Cereal Name	Serving Size	Total Sugars (g)
Healthy Food Company	Nutty Oats	28 grams	5 grams

\*The amount of sugar in a cereal might change. Even if you always buy the same brands and types of cereal, be sure to check the serving size and amount of total sugars on the Nutrition Facts label to make sure they match what you have written in the list above. All cereals served must be whole grain-rich, enriched, or fortified.

**Answer to “Test Yourself” activity on page 1:** *The cereal has 5 grams of total sugars per 30 grams. The maximum amount of total sugars allowed for 30 grams of cereal is 6 grams. 5 is less than 6, so this cereal meets the sugar limit.*

# Grain-Based Desserts in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Kids need the vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients in foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and lean protein foods. Too often, kids are filling up on foods high in added sugars and low in nutrients.

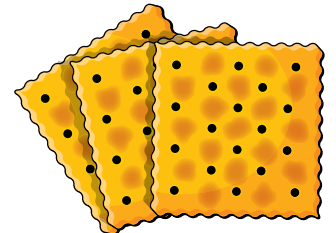


As of October 1, 2017, grain-based desserts no longer count toward the grain component of meals and snacks offered through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This small change helps reduce the amount of added sugars kids eat in child care.

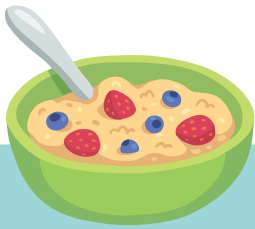
## What Are Grain-Based Desserts?

The chart below lists some common grain-based desserts:

Grain-Based Desserts (Not Reimbursable in the CACFP):	Not Grain-Based Desserts (Reimbursable in the CACFP):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brownies</li> <li>• Cakes, including coffee cake and cupcakes</li> <li>• Cereal bars, breakfast bars, and granola bars</li> <li>• Cookies, including vanilla wafers</li> <li>• Doughnuts, any kind</li> <li>• Fig rolls/bars/cookies and other fruit-filled rolls/bars/cookies</li> <li>• Gingerbread</li> <li>• Ice cream cones</li> <li>• Marshmallow cereal treats</li> <li>• Pie crusts of dessert pies, cobblers, and fruit turnovers</li> <li>• Sweet bread puddings</li> <li>• Sweet biscotti, such as those made with fruits, chocolate, icing, etc.</li> <li>• Sweet croissants, such as chocolate-filled</li> <li>• Sweet pita chips, such as cinnamon-sugar flavored</li> <li>• Sweet rice puddings</li> <li>• Sweet scones, such as those made with fruits, icing, etc.</li> <li>• Sweet rolls, such as cinnamon rolls</li> <li>• Toaster pastries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banana bread, zucchini bread, and other quick breads</li> <li>• Cereals that meet the sugar limit and are whole grain-rich, enriched, and/or fortified</li> <li>• Cornbread</li> <li>• Crackers, all types</li> <li>• French Toast</li> <li>• Muffins</li> <li>• Pancakes</li> <li>• Pie crusts of savory pies, such as vegetable pot pie and quiche</li> <li>• Plain croissants</li> <li>• Plain or savory pita chips</li> <li>• Savory biscotti, such as those made with cheese, vegetables, herbs, etc.</li> <li>• Savory bread puddings, such as those made with cheese, vegetables, herbs, etc.</li> <li>• Savory rice puddings, such as those made with cheese, vegetables, etc.</li> <li>• Savory scones, such as those made with cheese, vegetables, herbs, etc.</li> <li>• Teething biscuits, crackers, and toasts</li> <li>• Tortillas and tortilla chips</li> <li>• Waffles</li> </ul>



**Whole grain-rich and homemade grain-based desserts are also not creditable in the CACFP.**



# Still Too Sweet?



- Even if a food is not listed as a grain-based dessert, it can still be high in added sugars. As a best practice, compare grains and choose those that are lower in sugars. For instance, the amount of added sugars in a muffin can vary from recipe to recipe. Some muffins are as sweet as cupcakes and include ingredients such as candy and chocolate pieces or cinnamon-sugar toppings.
- Look for alternatives to sweet toppings (such as syrups, honey, and cinnamon sugars). For example, try topping pancakes with fruits instead of syrup. Starting these practices early helps kids develop healthy habits.

## Try It Out!

1. Think about some grain-based desserts that you used to serve. Add them to the “Instead of serving” column on the left.
2. What are some other foods you can serve instead? Add them to the “Try” column in the middle.
3. Think of other foods you could substitute for the examples listed below. Add them to the right column under “Other Choices.”

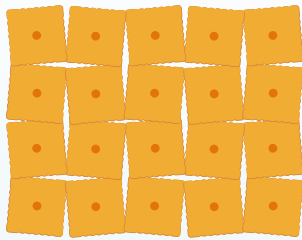
<b>Instead of serving:</b>	<b>Try:</b>	<b>Other Choices:</b>
Doughnuts or cinnamon rolls	Pancakes or waffles topped with sliced fruit	
Marshmallow cereal treat	Whole-grain tortilla chips or fruit	
Cookies	Whole-wheat crackers or graham crackers	
Cake or brownies	Banana bread	
Toaster pastries	Whole-wheat toast	

**Use your “Try” and “Other Choices” lists to help you plan new menus at your site!**

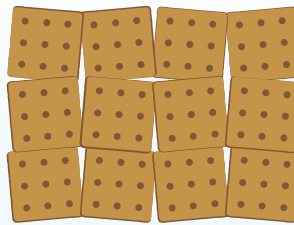
# Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Grains are an important part of meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). To make sure children and adults get enough grains at CACFP meals and snacks, required amounts for the grains component are listed in the meal pattern as ounce equivalents (oz. eq.). Ounce equivalents tell you the amount of grain in a portion of food.

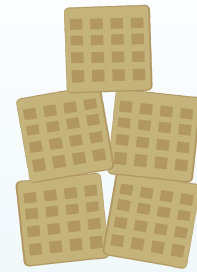
## How Much Is 1 Ounce Equivalent?



**20 cheese crackers**  
(1" by 1") = 1 oz. eq.



**12 thin wheat crackers**  
(1 1/4" by 1 1/4") = 1 oz. eq.



**5 woven whole-wheat crackers**  
(1 1/2" by 1 1/2") = 1 oz. eq.

## Using the Grains Measuring Chart

The Grains Measuring Chart on pages 2-4 tells you how much of a grain item you need to serve to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. To use this chart:

- 1 Find the grain you want to serve under the "Grain Item and Size" column.
- 2 Check if the chart lists a size or weight by the name of the grain. If the chart:
- 3 Find the column for the age of your participants and the meal or snack you are serving. This column lists the amount of a grain you will need to serve to meet the meal pattern requirement for grains.

**Lists a weight** for the grain, such as *at least 56 grams*, then use the Nutrition Facts label for the item you want to serve to make sure it weighs the same, or more than, the grain on the chart. See page 5.

**Does not list a weight or size** for the grain, then you do not need to check the size or weight of the product before using the chart.

**Lists a size** for the grain, such as *about 1 1/4" by 1 1/2"*, then check if the item is the same size, or larger than, this amount. See page 6.

Grain Item and Size	1- through 5-year-olds at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack
<b>Pita Bread/Round</b> (whole grain-rich or enriched) at least 56 grams*	<b>Serve at Least</b> 1/2 oz. eq., which equals about...
<b>Popcorn</b>	1/4 pita or 14 grams
<b>Pretzel, Hard, Mini-Twist</b> (about 1 1/4" by 1 1/2")**	1 1/2 cups or 14 grams
	7 twists or 11 grams



# Grains Measuring Chart for the Child and Adult Care Food Program



## Grain Item and Size

## Age Group and Meal

**1- through 5-year-olds**  
at Breakfast, Lunch,  
Supper, Snack

**6- through 18-year-olds**  
at Breakfast, Lunch,  
Supper, Snack  
**Adults** at Snack only

**Adults** at Breakfast,  
Lunch, Supper

**Serve at Least**  
**½ oz. eq.**, which equals  
about...

**Serve at Least**  
**1 oz. eq.**, which equals  
about...

**Serve at Least**  
**2 oz. eq.**, which  
equals about...

**Bagel** (entire bagel)  
at least 56 grams\*

¼ bagel or 14 grams

½ bagel or 28 grams

1 bagel or 56 grams

**Bagel, Mini** (entire bagel)  
at least 28 grams\*

½ bagel or 14 grams

1 bagel or 28 grams

2 bagels or 56 grams

**Biscuit** at least 28 grams\*

½ biscuit or 14 grams

1 biscuit or 28 grams

2 biscuits or 56 grams

**Bread** (whole grain-rich or  
enriched) at least 28 grams\*

½ slice or 14 grams

1 slice or 28 grams

2 slices or 56 grams

**Bun or Roll** (entire bun  
or roll) at least 28 grams\*

½ bun/roll or 14 grams

1 bun/roll or 28 grams

2 buns/rolls or 56 grams

**Cereal Grains** (barley,  
bulgur, quinoa, etc.)

¼ cup cooked or  
14 grams dry

½ cup cooked or  
28 grams dry

1 cup cooked or  
56 grams dry

**Cereal, Ready-to-Eat:  
Flakes or Rounds**

½ cup or 14 grams

1 cup or 28 grams

2 cups or 56 grams

**Cereal, Ready-to-Eat:  
Granola**

⅓ cup or 14 grams

¼ cup or 28 grams

½ cup or 56 grams

**Cereal, Ready-to-Eat:  
Puffed**

¾ cup or 14 grams

1 ¼ cup or 28 grams

2 ½ cups or 56 grams

**Corn Muffin**  
at least 34 grams\*

½ muffin or 17 grams

1 muffin or 34 grams

2 muffins or 68 grams

**Cracker, Animal**  
(about 1 ½" by 1")\*\*

8 crackers or 14 grams

15 crackers or 28 grams

30 crackers (~1 cup)  
or 56 grams

**Cracker, Bear-Shaped,  
Sweet** (about 1" by ½")\*\*

12 crackers (~¼ cup)  
or 14 grams

24 crackers (~½ cup)  
or 28 grams

48 crackers (~1 cup)  
or 56 grams

**Cracker, Cheese, Square,  
Savory** (about 1" by 1")\*\*

10 crackers or 11 grams

20 crackers (~⅓ cup)  
or 22 grams

40 crackers (~⅔ cup)  
or 44 grams

**Cracker, Fish-Shaped  
or Similar, Savory**  
(about ¾" by ½")\*\*

21 crackers (~¼ cup)  
or 11 grams

41 crackers (~½ cup)  
or 22 grams

81 crackers (~1 cup)  
or 44 grams



\*Check that the item you want to serve weighs this amount, or more. See "Using the Nutrition Facts Label" on page 5 for more information.

\*\*Check that the item you want to serve is about this size or larger. See "Grains Measuring Tools" on page 6 for more information.

# Grains Measuring Chart for the Child and Adult Care Food Program



## Grain Item and Size

## Age Group and Meal

**1- through 5-year-olds**  
at Breakfast, Lunch,  
Supper, Snack

**6- through 18-year-olds**  
at Breakfast, Lunch,  
Supper, Snack  
**Adults** at Snack only

**Adults** at Breakfast,  
Lunch, Supper

**Serve at Least**  
**½ oz. eq.**, which equals  
about...

**Serve at Least**  
**1 oz. eq.**, which equals  
about...

**Serve at Least**  
**2 oz. eq.**, which equals  
about...

**Cracker, Graham**  
(about 5" by 2 ½")\*\*

1 cracker or 14 grams

2 crackers or 28 grams

4 crackers or 56 grams

**Cracker, Round, Savory**  
(about 1 ¾" across)\*\*

4 crackers or 11 grams

7 crackers or 22 grams

14 crackers or 44 grams

**Cracker, Saltine**  
(about 2" by 2")\*\*

4 crackers or 11 grams

8 crackers or 22 grams

16 crackers or 44 grams

**Cracker, Thin Wheat,  
Square, Savory**  
(about 1 ¼" by 1 ¼")\*\*

6 crackers or 11 grams

12 crackers or 22 grams

23 crackers or 44 grams

**Cracker, Woven Whole-  
Wheat, Square, Savory**  
(about 1 ½" by 1 ½")\*\*

3 crackers or 11 grams

5 crackers or 22 grams

10 crackers or 44 grams

**Croissant**  
at least 34 grams\*

½ croissant or 17 grams

1 croissant or 34 grams

2 croissants or 68 grams

**English Muffin** (top and  
bottom) at least 56 grams\*

¼ muffin or 14 grams

½ muffin or 28 grams

1 muffin or 56 grams

**French Toast Stick**  
at least 18 grams\*

2 sticks or 35 grams

4 sticks or 69 grams

8 sticks or 138 grams

**Grits**

¼ cup cooked or  
14 grams dry

½ cup cooked or  
28 grams dry

1 cup cooked or  
56 grams dry

**Melba Toast**  
(about 3 ½" by 1 ½")\*\*

2 pieces or 11 grams

5 pieces or 22 grams

8 pieces or 44 grams

**Muffin and Quick Bread**  
(banana, etc.)  
at least 55 grams\*

½ muffin/slice or  
28 grams

1 muffin/slice or  
55 grams

2 muffins/slices or  
110 grams

**Oatmeal**

¼ cup cooked or  
14 grams dry

½ cup cooked or  
28 grams dry

1 cup cooked or  
56 grams dry

**Pancake**  
at least 34 grams\*

½ pancake or 17 grams

1 pancake or 34 grams

2 pancakes or 68 grams



\*Check that the item you want to serve weighs this amount, or more. See "Using the Nutrition Facts Label" on page 5 for more information.

\*\*Check that the item you want to serve is about this size or larger. See "Grains Measuring Tools" on page 6 for more information.

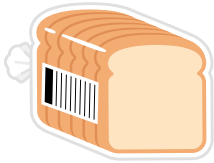
# Grains Measuring Chart for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

 <b>Grain Item and Size</b>	<b>Age Group and Meal</b>		
	<b>1- through 5-year-olds</b> at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack  <b>Serve at Least</b> ½ oz. eq., which equals about...	<b>6- through 18-year-olds</b> at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack  <b>Adults</b> at Snack only  <b>Serve at Least</b> 1 oz. eq., which equals about...	<b>Adults</b> at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper  <b>Serve at Least</b> 2 oz. eq., which equals about...
<b>Pasta</b> (whole grain-rich or enriched, all shapes)	¼ cup cooked or 14 grams dry	½ cup cooked or 28 grams dry	1 cup cooked or 56 grams dry
<b>Pita Bread/Round</b> (whole grain-rich or enriched) at least 56 grams*	¼ pita or 14 grams	½ pita or 28 grams	1 pita or 56 grams
<b>Popcorn</b>	1 ½ cups or 14 grams	3 cups or 28 grams	6 cups or 56 grams
<b>Pretzel, Hard, Mini-Twist</b> (about 1 ¼" by 1 ½")**	7 twists (~⅓ cup) or 11 grams	14 twists (~⅔ cup) or 22 grams	27 twists (~1 cup) or 44 grams
<b>Pretzel, Hard, Thin Stick</b> (about 2 ½" long)**	16 sticks or 11 grams	31 sticks or 22 grams	62 sticks or 44 grams
<b>Pretzel, Soft</b> at least 56 grams*	¼ pretzel or 14 grams	½ pretzel or 28 grams	1 pretzel or 56 grams
<b>Rice</b> (all types)	¼ cup cooked or 14 grams dry	½ cup cooked or 28 grams dry	1 cup cooked or 56 grams dry
<b>Rice Cake</b> at least 8 grams*	1 ½ cakes or 11 grams	3 cakes or 22 grams	5 ½ cakes or 44 grams
<b>Rice Cake, Mini</b> (about 1 ¾" across)**	7 cakes or 11 grams	13 cakes or 22 grams	25 cakes or 44 grams
<b>Taco or Tostada Shell, Hard</b> at least 14 grams*	1 shell or 14 grams	2 shells or 28 grams	4 shells or 56 grams
<b>Tortilla, Soft, Corn</b> (about 5 ½")**	¾ tortilla or 14 grams	1 ¼ tortillas or 28 grams	2 ½ tortillas or 56 grams
<b>Tortilla, Soft, Flour</b> (about 6")**	½ tortilla or 14 grams	1 tortilla or 28 grams	2 tortillas or 56 grams
<b>Tortilla, Soft, Flour</b> (about 8")**	¼ tortilla or 14 grams	½ tortilla or 28 grams	1 tortilla or 56 grams
<b>Waffle</b> at least 34 grams*	½ waffle or 17 grams	1 waffle or 34 grams	2 waffles or 68 grams



\*Check that the item you want to serve weighs this amount, or more. See "Using the Nutrition Facts Label" on page 5 for more information.

\*\*Check that the item you want to serve is about this size or larger. See "Grains Measuring Tools" on page 6 for more information.



## Using the Nutrition Facts Label

Some items on the Grains Measuring Chart may have weights listed by the name of the item. Follow the steps below to see if your grain meets the minimum weight listed in the chart:

- 1** Find the grain item and its minimum weight in the Grains Measuring Chart.

For example, the minimum weight for a pancake is at least 34 grams.

Grain Item and Size	Age Group and Meal		
	1- through 5-year-olds at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack	6- through 18-year-olds at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack Adults at Snack only	Adults at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper
<b>Serve at Least</b> ½ oz. eq., which equals about...	<b>Serve at Least</b> 1 oz. eq., which equals about...	<b>Serve at Least</b> 2 oz. eq., which equals about...	
<b>Pancake</b> at least 34 grams*	½ pancake or 17 grams	1 pancake or 34 grams	2 pancakes or 68 grams

- 2** Look at the Nutrition Facts label of the grain you wish to serve. Find the weight of the serving size (usually provided as grams (g)). One serving of Brand P pancakes weighs 117 grams.

- 3** Using the Nutrition Facts label, find how many items are in one serving. There are three pancakes in one serving of Brand P pancakes.

- 4** If there is more than one of an item in a serving, you will need to divide to find the weight of each item. For example, the serving size of Brand P pancakes is three pancakes.

Divide the serving weight by the number of items in one serving to find the weight of each item.

### Brand P Pancakes

Nutrition Facts	
4 servings per container	
Serving size <b>3 Pancakes</b> (117g)	
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>280</b>
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 9g	<b>12%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	<b>8%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 117 \text{ grams} & \div & 3 \text{ pancakes} & = & 39 \text{ grams per pancake} \\
 \textit{Serving Weight} & & \textit{Serving Size} & & \textit{Weight of Each Item}
 \end{array}$$

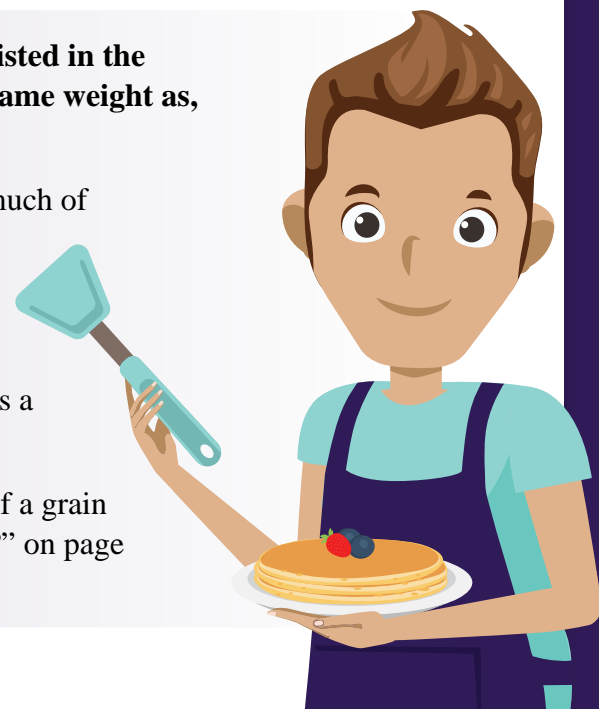
**Compare the weight of one item to the minimum weight listed in the Grains Measuring Chart (from Step 1). Is your item the same weight as, or heavier than, the minimum weight?**



**Yes:** Use the Grains Measuring Chart to see how much of your grain to serve to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. In the example above, pancakes must weigh at least 34 grams in order to use the Grains Measuring Chart. Because each Brand P pancake weighs 39 grams, you may use the chart as a guide to the minimum serving amount.



**No:** Use another method to determine how much of a grain item to serve. See “What If My Grain Is Different?” on page 6 for more information.



## Are There Other Menu Planning Considerations?

If you serve an item that is larger, or weighs more, than what's listed on the Grains Measuring Chart, then you might serve more grains than required by the CACFP meal pattern. The Grains Measuring Chart can help make serving enough grains easier. However, the tools described under "What If My Grain Is Different?" can also help you determine how much of an item to serve to meet the meal pattern without serving more than what is needed.

## What If My Grain Is Different?

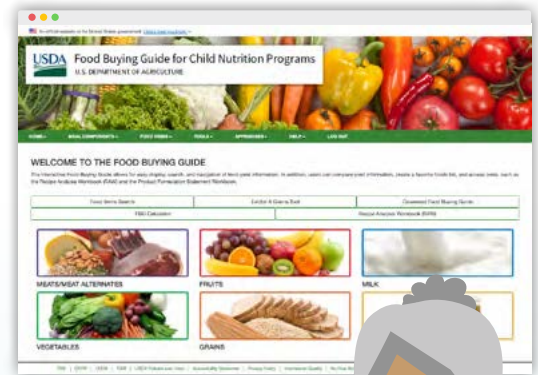
Is the grain item you want to serve:

- Smaller than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart?
- Lighter in weight than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart?
- Not listed on the Grains Measuring Chart?

If so, you will need to use another way to tell how much to serve in order to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. You could:

- Enter information from the Nutrition Facts label into the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Program's (FBG) Exhibit A Grains Tool*.<sup>\*</sup> This tool will let you know how many ounce equivalents of grains are in one serving of the item.
- Use the *FBG Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW)*<sup>\*</sup> to determine the ounce equivalents per serving for standardized recipes.

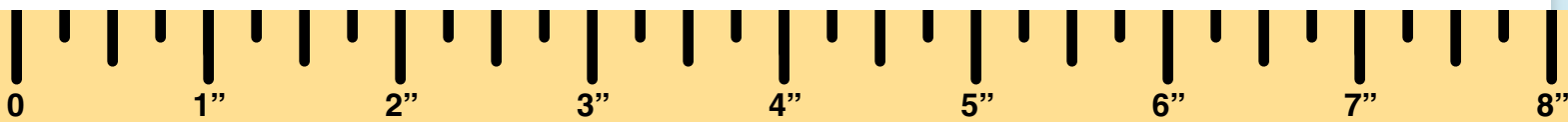
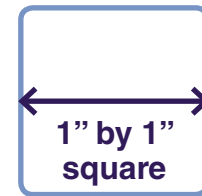
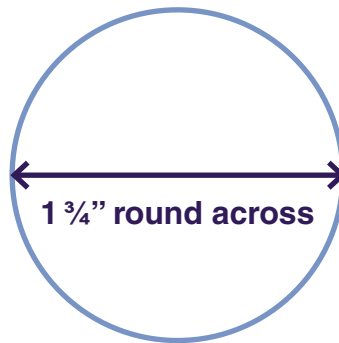
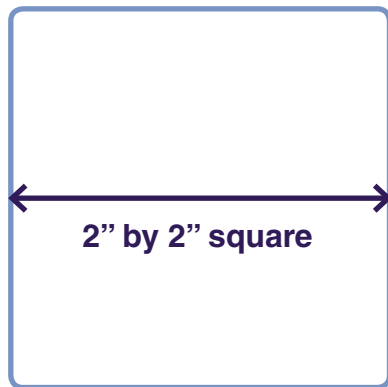
<sup>\*</sup>Available at <https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov>.



## Grains Measuring Tools

Compare your food to the guides below to see if it is the same size or larger than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart.

**Guides appear as actual size when this worksheet is printed at 100% on standard 8 1/2" by 11" paper.**



# Grain Requirements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Group A	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group A	
Bread type coating Bread sticks (hard) Chow Mein noodles Savory Crackers (saltines and snack crackers) Croutons Pretzels (hard) Stuffing (dry) Note: weights apply to bread in stuffing	2 oz. eq. = 44 gm or 1.6 oz. 1 oz. eq. = 22 gm or 0.8 oz. 1/2 oz. eq. = 11 gm or 0.4 oz. 1/4 oz. eq. = 6 gm or 0.2 oz.	
Group B	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group B	
Bagels Batter type coating Biscuits Breads - all (for example sliced, French, Italian) Buns (hamburger and hot dog) Sweet Crackers (graham crackers - all shapes, animal crackers) Egg roll skins English muffins Pita bread Pizza crust Pretzels (soft) Rolls Tortillas Tortilla chips Taco shells	2 oz. eq. = 56 gm or 2.0 oz. 1 oz. eq. = 28 gm or 1.0 oz. 1/2 oz. eq. = 14 gm or 0.5 oz. 1/4 oz. eq. = 7 gm or 0.25 oz.	
Group C	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group C	
Cornbread Corn muffins Croissants Pancakes Pie crust (meats/meat alternate pie crust only) Waffles	2 oz. eq. = 68 gm or 2.4 oz. 1 oz. eq. = 34 gm or 1.2 oz. 1/2 oz. eq. = 17 gm or 0.6 oz. 1/4 oz. eq. = 9 gm or 0.3 oz.	
Group D	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group D	
Muffins (all, except corn)	2 oz. eq. = 110 gm or 4.0 oz. 1 oz. eq. = 55 gm or 2.0 oz.	1/2 oz. eq. = 28 gm or 1.0 oz. 1/4 oz. eq. = 14 gm or 0.5 oz.
Group E	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group E	
French toast	2 oz. eq. = 138 gm or 4.8 oz. 1 oz. eq. = 69 gm or 2.4 oz.	1/2 oz. eq. = 35 gm or 1.2 oz. 1/4 oz. eq. = 18 gm or 0.6 oz.
Group H	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group H	
Cereal Grains (barley, quinoa, etc.) Breakfast cereals (cooked) Bulgur or cracked wheat Macaroni (all shapes) Noodles (all varieties) Pasta (all shapes) Ravioli (noodle only) Rice	2 oz. eq. = 1 cup cooked or 2 ounce (56 gm) dry 1 oz. eq. = 1/2 cup cooked or 1 ounce (28 gm) dry	
Group I	Ounce Equivalent (oz. eq.) for Group I	
Ready to eat breakfast cereal (cold, dry)	2 oz. eq. = 2 cup or 2 ounce for flakes and rounds 1 oz. eq. = 1 cup or 1 ounce for flakes and rounds 2 oz. eq. = 2.5 cups or 2 ounce for puffed cereal 1 oz. eq. = 1.25 cups or 1 ounce for puffed cereal 2 oz. eq. = 1/2 cup or 2 ounce for granola 1 oz. eq. = 1/4 cup or 1 ounce for granola	

\*\*\* Groups F & G not included, not reimbursable on the CACFP \*\*\*

"Adapted from USDA Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs.  
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**Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services**

Child & Adult Care Food Program

Breakfast Food Chart for Ages 1-18

Meal Components & Food Items <sup>1</sup>	Ages			
	1-2	3-5	6-12	13-18 <sup>2</sup> (At-Risk Afterschool Programs and Emergency Shelters)
<b>Fluid Milk<sup>3</sup></b>	1 year old: Unflavored Whole, 2 year old: Unflavored low-fat (1%) or Unflavored fat-free (skim)	Unflavored low-fat (1%) or Unflavored fat-free (skim)	Unflavored/flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim)	Unflavored/flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim)
Milk	½ cup (4 oz.)	¾ cup (6 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)
<b>Vegetables/Fruits</b>				
Vegetables, fruits or portions of both <sup>4</sup>	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup
<b>Grains<sup>5, 6</sup></b>				
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq. (14 gm.)	½ oz. eq. (14 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (28 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (28 gm.)
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll, muffin; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq.	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal <sup>7</sup> , cereal grain, pasta; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq. (¼ cup-cooked, 14 gm.-dry)	½ oz. eq. (¼ cup-cooked, 14 gm.-dry)	1 oz. eq. (½ cup-cooked, 28 gm.-dry)	1 oz. eq. (½ cup-cooked, 28 gm.-dry)
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat cereal <sup>7</sup>				
Flakes or Rounds	½ oz. eq. (½ cup, 14 gm.)		1 oz. eq. (1 cup, 28 gm.)	
Granola	½ oz. eq. (⅛ cup, 14 gm.)		1 oz. eq. (¼ cup, 28 gm.)	
Puffed Cereal	½ oz. eq. (¾ cup, 14 gm.)		1 oz. eq. (1¼ cup, 28 gm.)	
*** <a href="#">USDA Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP worksheet</a> ***				

- 1 Must serve all three components for a reimbursable meal.
- 2 Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs for At-Risk Afterschool Programs and Emergency Shelters.
- 3 Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored fat-free (skim) or unflavored low-fat (1%) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored fat-free (skim), unflavored low-fat (1%), flavored fat-free (skim), or flavored low-fat (1%) milk for children six years old and older.
- 4 Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.
- 5 At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grain component with the exception of sweet crackers (e.g., graham crackers of any shape and animal crackers).
- 6 Meat and meat alternates may be used to meet the entire grains requirement a maximum of three times a week. One ounce equivalent of meat and meat alternates is equal to one ounce equivalent of grains.
- 7 Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.

**Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services**

Child & Adult Care Food Program

Lunch & Supper Food Chart for Ages 1-18

Meal Components & Food Items <sup>1</sup>	Ages			
	1-2	3-5	6-12	13-18 <sup>2</sup> (At-Risk Afterschool Programs and Emergency Shelters)
<b>Fluid Milk<sup>3</sup></b>	1 year old: Unflavored Whole, 2 year old: Unflavored low-fat (1%) or Unflavored fat-free (skim)	Unflavored low-fat (1%) or Unflavored fat-free (skim)	Unflavored/flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim)	Unflavored/flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim)
Milk	½ cup (4 oz.)	¾ cup (6 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)
<b>Meat/Meat Alternate</b>	1 oz. eq.	1½ oz. eq.	2 oz. eq.	2 oz. eq.
Lean meat, poultry, fish; <b>or</b>	1 oz.	1½ oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
Cheese; <b>or</b>	1 oz.	1½ oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
Large egg; <b>or</b>	½ egg	¾ egg	1 egg	1 egg
Tofu, soy products, alternate protein product <sup>4</sup> ; <b>or</b>	1 oz.	1½ oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
Cooked beans, peas, or lentils <sup>5</sup> ; <b>or</b> ,	¼ cup	⅜ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened <sup>6</sup> <b>or</b> ;	½ cup (4 oz.)	¾ cup (6 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)
Peanut butter, soy nut butter, other nut or seed butter; <b>or</b>	2 tbsp.	3 tbsp.	4 tbsp.	4 tbsp.
Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, seeds	1 oz.	1½ oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
<b>Vegetable<sup>5, 7, 8</sup></b>				
Vegetable	⅛ cup	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup
<b>Fruit<sup>7, 8</sup></b>				
Fruit	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup
<b>Grains<sup>9</sup></b>				
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq. (14 gm.)	½ oz. eq. (14 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (28 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (28 gm.)
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll, muffin; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq.	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal <sup>10</sup> , cereal grain, or pasta	½ oz. eq. (¼ cup-cooked, 14 gm.-dry)	½ oz. eq. (¼ cup-cooked, 14 gm.-dry)	1 oz. eq. (½ cup-cooked, 28 gm.-dry)	1 oz. eq. (½ cup-cooked, 28 gm.-dry)

\*\*\*[USDA Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP worksheet](#)\*\*\*



- 1 Must serve all five components for a reimbursable meal.
- 2 Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs for At-Risk Afterschool Programs and Emergency Shelters.
- 3 Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored fat-free (skim) or unflavored low-fat (1%) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored fat-free (skim), unflavored low-fat (1%), flavored fat-free (skim), or flavored low-fat (1%) milk for children six years old and older.
- 4 Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in CFR Appendix A to Part 226.
- 5 Cooked beans, peas, and lentils may credit as either a vegetable or a meat alternate, but not as both in the same meal. Immature beans and peas, such as green beans, wax beans, and green peas credit as a vegetable only; they do not credit as a meat alternate.
- 6 Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.
- 7 Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.
- 8 A vegetable may be used to meet the entire fruit requirement. When two vegetables are served at lunch or supper, two different kinds of vegetables must be served.
- 9 At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grain component with the exception of sweet crackers (e.g., graham crackers of any shape and animal crackers).
- 10 Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.

**Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services**

Child & Adult Care Food Program

Snack Food Chart for Ages 1-18

Meal Components & Food Items <sup>1</sup>	Ages		
	1-5	6-12	13-18 <sup>2</sup> (At-Risk Afterschool Programs and Emergency Shelters)
<b>Fluid Milk<sup>3</sup></b>	1 year old: Unflavored whole 2-5 year old: Unflavored low-fat (1%) or Unflavored fat-free (skim)	Unflavored/flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim)	Unflavored/flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim)
Milk	½ cup (4 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)	1 cup (8 oz.)
<b>Meat/Meat Alternate</b>	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Lean meat, poultry, fish; <b>or</b>	½ oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.
Cheese; <b>or</b>	½ oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.
Large egg; <b>or</b>	½ egg	½ egg	½ egg
Tofu, soy products, alternate protein product <sup>4</sup> ; <b>or</b>	½ oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.
Cooked beans, peas, or lentils; <b>or<sup>5</sup></b>	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup
Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened <sup>6</sup> <b>or</b> ;	¼ cup (2 oz.)	½ cup (4 oz.)	½ cup (4 oz.)
Peanut butter, soy nut butter, other nut or seed butter; <b>or</b>	1 tbsp.	2 tbsp.	2 tbsp.
Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, seeds	½ ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
<b>Vegetable<sup>5, 7</sup></b>			
Vegetable	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup
<b>Fruit<sup>7</sup></b>			
Fruit	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup
<b>Grains<sup>8</sup></b>			
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq. (14 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (28 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (28 gm.)
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll, muffin; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal <sup>9</sup> , cereal grain, pasta; <b>or</b>	½ oz. eq. (¼ cup-cooked, 14 gm.-dry)	1 oz. eq. (½ cup-cooked, 28 gm.-dry)	1 oz. eq. (½ cup-cooked, 28 gm.-dry)
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat cereal <sup>9</sup>	Flakes or Rounds Granola Puffed Cereal	½ oz. eq. (½ cup, 14 gm.) ½ oz. eq. (⅓ cup, 14 gm.) ½ oz. eq. (¾ cup, 14 gm.)	1 oz. eq. (1 cup, 28 gm.) 1 oz. eq. (¼ cup, 28 gm.) 1 oz. eq. (1¼ cup, 28 gm.)
*** <a href="#">USDA Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP worksheet</a> ***			

- 1 Select two of the five components for a reimbursable snack. Only one of the two components may be a beverage.
- 2 Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs for At-Risk Afterschool Programs and Emergency Shelters.
- 3 Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored fat-free (skim) or unflavored low-fat (1%) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored fat-free (skim), unflavored low-fat (1%), flavored fat-free (skim), or flavored low-fat (1%) milk for children six years old and older.
- 4 Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in CFR Appendix A to Part 226.
- 5 Cooked beans, peas, and lentils may credit as either a vegetable or as a meat alternate, but not as both in the same meal. Immature beans and peas, such as green beans, wax beans, and green peas credit as vegetable only; they do not credit as a meat alternate.
- 6 Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.
- 7 Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.
- 8 At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grain component with the exception of sweet crackers (e.g., graham crackers of any shape and animal crackers).
- 9 Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
 COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (CFNA)  
 CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)  
**3 MEAL MENU TEMPLATE (5 DAY)**

NAME OF CENTER/FACILITY					
YEAR		WEEK OF			
<b>BREAKFAST</b>	DATE / /	DATE / /	DATE / /	DATE / /	DATE / /
<b>Milk</b>					
<b>Vegetable, fruit, or portions of both</b>					
<b>Grain</b> Indicate "WG" next to Whole Grain menu items or Meat/Meat alternate (no more than 3 times per week at breakfast only)					
<b>Other Foods</b>					
<b>LUNCH</b>					
<b>Milk</b>					
<b>Meat/Meat Alternates</b> Meat, poultry, or fish or tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products					
<b>Vegetable</b>					
<b>Fruit</b>					
<b>Grain</b>					
<b>Other Foods</b>					
<b>SNACK AM or PM (Circle) Serve 2 of 5 components</b>					
<b>Milk</b>					
<b>Meat/Meat Alternates</b>					
<b>Vegetable</b>					
<b>Fruit</b>					
<b>Grain</b>					
<b>Other Foods</b>					

**Note:** Minimum serving sizes per age group and meal requirements as listed on the Food Charts must be followed for a creditable **CACFP** meal.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
 COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (CFNA)  
 CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)  
**5 MEAL MENU TEMPLATE (5 DAY)**

NAME OF CENTER/FACILITY					
YEAR		WEEK OF			
<b>BREAKFAST</b>	DATE / /	DATE / /	DATE / /	DATE / /	DATE / /
Milk					
Vegetable, fruit, or portions of both					
Grain Indicate "WG" next to Whole Grain menu items or Meat/Meat alternate <sup>5</sup> (no more than 3 times per week at breakfast only)					
Other Foods					
<b>SNACK AM Serve 2 of 5</b>					
Milk					
Meat/Meat Alternates					
Vegetable					
Fruit					
Grain					
Other Foods					
<b>LUNCH</b>					
Milk					
Meat/Meat Alternates Meat, poultry, or fish or tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products					
Vegetable					
Fruit					
Grain					
Other Foods					

<b>SNACK PM Serve 2 of 5</b>					
<b>Milk</b>					
<b>Meat/Meat Alternates</b>					
<b>Vegetable</b>					
<b>Fruit</b>					
<b>Grain</b>					
<b>Other Foods</b>					
<b>SUPPER</b>					
<b>Milk</b>					
<b>Meat/Meat Alternates</b> Meat, poultry, or fish or tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products					
<b>Vegetable</b>					
<b>Fruit</b>					
<b>Grain</b>					
<b>Other Foods</b>					

**Note:** Minimum serving sizes per age group and meal requirements as listed on the Food Charts must be followed for a creditable **CACFP** meal.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
 COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (CFNA)  
 CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)  
**3 MEAL MENU TEMPLATE (5 DAY)**

NAME OF CENTER/FACILITY Love-N-Stuff		GOOD EXAMPLE #1			
YEAR 20XX WEEK OF June 1 to June 5					
BREAKFAST	DATE 6/1/20XX	DATE 6/2/20XX	DATE 6/3/20XX	DATE 6/4/20XX	DATE 6/5/20XX
<b>Milk</b>	skim milk	skim milk	skim milk	skim milk	skim milk
<b>Vegetable, fruit, or portions of both</b>	applesauce	sliced peaches	orange sections	grape juice	diced pears
<b>Grain</b> Indicate "WG" next to Whole Grain menu items or Meat/Meat alternate (no more than 3 times per week at breakfast only)	WG waffle	oatmeal	WG bagel	Cheerios	biscuit
<b>Other Foods</b>		raisins	cream cheese	whole wheat toast	egg
<b>LUNCH</b>	vegetable beef soup USDA recipe		baked chicken USDA recipe		
<b>Milk</b>	skim milk	skim milk	skim milk	skim milk	skim milk
<b>Meat/Meat Alternates</b> Meat, poultry, or fish or tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products	lean ground beef	beef hot dog (CN)	chicken breast	deli turkey & swiss cheese	fish patty (CN)
<b>Vegetable</b>	broccoli	tater tots	green beans	baby carrots	mixed vegetables
<b>Fruit</b>	pineapple chunks	watermelon cubes	peaches	banana	fruit salad
<b>Grain</b>	cornbread	WG hot dog bun	WG roll	WG bread	WG hamburger bun
<b>Other Foods</b>		mustard, ketchup	ketchup	mustard, mayo	tartar sauce
<b>SNACK AM or PM (Circle)</b> <b>Serve 2 of 5 components</b>	cheese quesdilla				
<b>Milk</b>		skim milk			skim milk
<b>Meat/Meat Alternates</b>	colby cheese	peanut butter		mozzarella cheese stick	
<b>Vegetable</b>			carrot sticks		
<b>Fruit</b>			apple slices	pineapple	banana
<b>Grain</b>	WG floor tortilla	WG bread			
<b>Other Foods</b>	mild salsa	jelly			

