


Date: June 20, 2011

To: 2011 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

From: Amy J. Kolano, RD, CD   
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Re: Summer Food Service Program - Offer Versus Serve (OVS) for Non-School Sponsors

Currently, school sponsors have the OVS option under 7 CFR §225.16(f)(ii). OVS permits children to decline food or menu items they do not intend to eat. However, the regulations restrict OVS to school sponsors, meaning that all meal components must be served by other sponsors.

USDA Policy Memo SFSP 11-2011 expands the option of using OVS to non-school sponsors. The OVS option can be an opportunity to minimize food waste and help sponsors contain costs.

Schools electing to use OVS must use the options relevant to their menu planning approach – there is no change in Policy. Non-school sponsors wishing to use OVS must follow the OVS requirements for the food-based menu planning approach. This means a child may decline only one food item offered at breakfast and up to two of the food items offered at lunch or supper. *There is no OVS option for snacks.*

To further clarify, implementation of this policy means that children at non-school sponsored sites that utilize OVS may:

- decline one of the three breakfast components so that a reimbursable breakfast may end up with only 2 of the 3 components offered;
- decline up to two menu items at lunch so that a reimbursable lunch could consist of only 3 of the 5 menu items offered.

If a non-school sponsor wishes to implement this new policy yet this summer, the sponsor must update the online Site Applications and resubmit to DPI for approval. The update would need to be made on page 1 of the Site Application using the Offer Vs Serve options provided within the “School Sponsors Only” area on that page.

Questions regarding the above information may be directed to Amy Kolano at 608-266-7124, [amy.kolano@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:amy.kolano@dpi.wi.gov) or Kim Musiedlak at 608-264-9542, [kimberly.musiedlak@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:kimberly.musiedlak@dpi.wi.gov).

All USDA Policy Memos can be found on the USDA website:  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/Administration/policy.html>.