



*Union County T.E.A.M.S. Charter School and High School/College Leadership Academy*  
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## **Lunch Offer versus Serve Policy**

**Name of Local Education Agency Union County Teams Charter**

**Implementation Date: September 2023**

**Offer versus serve (OVS) is a policy for reimbursable meals that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal in order to reduce plate waste and food cost.**

**A school lunch eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer five (5) food components in the appropriate**

**amounts per grade grouping:**

- 1. Fruit**
- 2. Vegetable**
- 3. Grains**
- 4. Meat/Meat Alternate**
- 5. Milk**

**Students are allowed to decline two (2) of the five (5) required food components, but must select at least ½ cup of either fruit (or fruit combination) or ½ cup of vegetables (or vegetable combination) or ½ cup of a fruit/ vegetable combination.**

**After taking the required ½ cup fruit or vegetable, students must select at least two (2) additional components in the full amounts (per grade group requirements) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.**

**The student's decision to accept all five (5) components or to decline two (2) components shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The lunch is priced as a unit. If students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.**

**School staff cannot require a student to take a particular food component (except the required ½ cup fruit or vegetable). It is the student's choice to select three, four or all five components.**

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**Prepackaged meals such as bagged or “grab and go” meals are allowed under OVS. School staff is encouraged to offer some food components/food items with choices (e.g. fruit basket) and/or the option to decline a component/item, such as milk.**

**At each school implementing the Offer versus Serve Policy:**

**School food service staff will be trained annually.**

**Signs will be posted to assist students in identifying a reimbursable meal under OVS**

**Offer versus Serve will be implemented in all schools.**

***“We Are Community Builders...Aiming High and Achieving Greatness”***

**Mrs. Sheila L. Thorpe  
Executive Director/Founder**

**Michael J. Chiles, Jr.  
Vice-Principal/Director of Operations**

**Mrs. Eleanor Worrill  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**