Today’s Objectives

• Review Timeline for Proposed Standards
• Review Proposed Standards:
  • Whole Grain Rich Foods
  • Added Sugar
  • Milk
  • Sodium
  • Miscellaneous Proposed Standards
• Instructions on how to submit your comments
• Questions
USDA Proposed Timeline

2022-23 Transitional Standards
2023-24 Transitional Standards
February 10 - April 10 Comment Period on New Guidelines
April 10, 2023- January 1, 2024 – USDA reads all the comments
January 1, 2024 - USDA will release “Final Rule” to be implemented Fall 2024
THE ROAD AHEAD:
BUILDING BACK BETTER WITH SCHOOL MEALS

USDA is taking a multi-step approach to help schools build back even better from the pandemic and give kids the best chance at a healthy future.

1. TRANSITIONAL STANDARDS RULE
   In February 2022, USDA published a rule that served as a bridge to give schools the support they need as we work together to build back from the pandemic. The rule establishes transitional standards for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 in three key areas - milk, whole grains, and sodium.

2. PROPOSED RULE
   In February 2023, USDA issued a proposed rule on long term school nutrition standards based on the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans and feedback from our many partners.

3. FINAL RULE
   In time to plan for the 2024-2025 school year, USDA plans to issue a final rule establishing practical, implementable, science-based school meal standards that work for schools, industry, and most importantly - the more than 30 million school children that rely on the school meal programs every day.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK
Throughout the process, USDA is working hand-in-hand with schools, industry, children, parents, and others to gather input, including formal comment periods, conferences, listening sessions, and more.
Transitional Standards

• Milk – offer flavored or unflavored skim or 1% milk

• Sodium – 2022-23 Target 1
  2023-24 10% decrease from Target 1

• Whole Grains – 80% of whole grains must be whole grain rich
“Proposed Guidelines”

• It’s important to note these are proposed guidelines.
• Not a law YET
• Indication of where USDA wants to go and giving us the opportunity to provide input.
• USDA wants to hear what we have to say!
PROPOSED RULE FOR SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS

We all share a common goal: raising healthy kids and helping them reach their full potential! School meals are the main source of nutrition for millions of children every school day. Here are some ways USDA is proposing to make these meals even more nourishing, while still keeping them appealing to kids. We welcome your feedback on these proposed changes through public comments.

**Added Sugars**
Limit using a phased approach:
- **Phase 1**: Limits on specific high-sugar products like yogurt and cereal
- **Phase 2**: Overall weekly limits across all meals

**Milk**
Allow some* flavored milk with reasonable limits on added sugars.
* The proposed rule requests feedback on different options.

**Whole Grains**
Offer products that are primarily whole grain with the option for occasional non-whole, enriched grain products.

**Sodium**
Reduce weekly limits gradually and in line with FDA’s recommendations for industry.
Whole Grain Rich

• USDA is looking for input

• Option 1: Maintain Current requirements – 80% of all grains offered in a school week (based on ounce equivalents to be whole grain rich (50% whole grain))

• Option 2: Serve non-whole, enriched grain foods, one day per week
Added Sugar

• SY 25-26
  • Grain Based Desserts – only allowed 2 oz per equivalents per week in school breakfast
  • Cereals – no more than 6 grams added sugar per ounce
  • Yogurt – No more than 12 grams added sugar per 6 oz
  • Milk – no more than 10 grams added sugar per 8 oz

• SY 27-28
  • 10% of calories per meal, for both breakfast and lunch, in addition to product-based limits
What are Grain Based Desserts?

- Donuts
- Cereal Bars and Granola Bars
- Cinnamon Rolls
- Scones
- Cookie
- Toaster Pastry
- Cakes or Brownies

- Items such as Pancakes, French Toast, Waffles, Muffins/Quickbreads and Sweet Crackers* would be OK
Trix Yogurt Label

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*DPI does not endorse brands.*
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**INGREDIENTS:** LOWFAT MILK, HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP, CORN STARCH, COCOA, ALKALIZED COCOA, SALT, CARRAGEENAN, ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR, VITAMIN A PALMITATE, VITAMIN D3. **CONTAINS:** MILK.

**KEEP REFRIGERATED.** EXCELLENT SOURCE OF CALCIUM.
Milk

USDA is looking for input

**Option 1**: Allow only unflavored milk for K-8
Allow flavored and unflavored milk for 9-12 OR

Unflavored for K-5 and flavored for 6-12 (beginning SY25-26)

**Option 2**: Continue to allow flavored and unflavored milks for all grades

Sugar Standards will still apply
## Sodium

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Other Proposed Regulations

• After School Snack Standards would align with CACFP snack standards
• Nuts and seeds could credit for 100% of the meat/meat alternate
• Buy American – 5% limit on total food costs for non-domestic food purchases when utilizing the limited exceptions
• Geographic Preference allowed as a specification when purchasing local
• Meat/Meat Alternate will be called “Protein”
• Grain substitutions for schools operated by Bureau of Indian Education
How to Support

• Make your voice heard!

• USDA reads through all comments received

• Be sure to have specific examples with evidence to be in support of or against the proposed rules

• Comments are PUBLIC!

• Look for Section 16 of the proposed rule. This provides a guideline for how to set up your answers and provide specifics for USDA.
  • We recommend setting up answers to follow this guide.
Federal Register

- [Federal Register :: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- Written Comments should be received on or before April 10th, 2023 to be considered
- Read through proposed rules – Section 16 includes a guide
- Write down your comments
- Visit website
- Read through other public comments (as desired)
- Submit a formal comment
Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

A Proposed Rule by the Food and Nutrition Service on 02/07/2023

This document has a comment period that ends in 54 days. (04/10/2023)

AGENCY:
Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION:
Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY:
This rulemaking proposes long-term school nutrition standards based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025, and feedback the U.S. Department of Agriculture received from child nutrition program stakeholders during a robust stakeholder engagement campaign. Notably, this rulemaking
Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

A Proposed Rule by the Food and Nutrition Service on 02/07/2023

You are submitting an official comment to Regulations.gov. Comments are due 04/10/2023 at 11:59 pm EDT.

Thank you for taking the time to create a comment. Your input is important.

Once you have filled in the required fields below you can preview and/or submit your comment to the Agriculture Department for review. All comments are considered public and will be posted online once the Agriculture Department has reviewed them.

You can view alternative ways to comment or you may also comment via Regulations.gov at, https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FNS-2022-0043-0001.
Thank you for taking the time to create a comment. Your input is important.

Once you have filled in the required fields below you can preview and/or submit your comment to the Agriculture Department for review. All comments are considered public and will be posted online once the Agriculture Department has reviewed them.


Optional

And/Or

Comment

What is your comment about?

Upload File(s) + Add a file

Note: You can attach your comment as a file and/or attach supporting documents to your comment. Attachment Requirements.
Optional

Email

Opt to receive email confirmation of submission and tracking number?

Tell us about yourself! I am... *

- An Individual
- An Organization
- Anonymous
You are filing a document into an official docket. Any personal information included in your comment text and/or uploaded attachment(s) may be publicly viewable on the web.

☐ I read and understand the statement above.

SUBMIT COMMENT

Preview Comment

You can preview if you would like to see it before submitting.

*Once it has been submitted, you can not edit it!
Resources

The Road Ahead: Building Back Better With School Meals | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)

Federal Register :: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

Proposed Updates to the School Nutrition Standards | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)

School Meal Standards Comparison Chart | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)
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   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
   (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
   program.intake@usda.gov

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