

Offer vs Serve Policy

Offer versus Serve (OVS) is a provision in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) that allows students to decline some of the food offered. The goals of OVS is to reduce food waste in the school meals programs while permitting students to decline foods they do not intend to eat.

It is Troy City Schools policy that "Offer Versus Serve" shall be implemented in all cafeterias grades K-12.

At Lunch, schools must offer students all five required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at lunch are: meats/meat alternates; grains; fruit; vegetables; and fluid milk. Under OVS, a student must take at least three components in the required serving sizes. One selection must be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.

At Breakfast, schools must offer students all three required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at breakfast are: grains (with optional meats/meat alternates allowed); juice/fruit/vegetable; and milk. Under OVS, a student must be offered at least four food items and must select at least three food items. One selection must be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.