

Grain Servings for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Through September 30, 2021

This guidance applies to meals and snacks served in child care centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The chart below shows the required servings for whole grain-rich (WGR) and enriched products that contribute to the grains component. For guidance on identifying whole and enriched grains, see the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) handouts, [How to Identify Creditable Grains for Preschoolers in the CACFP](#), [Whole Grain-rich Criteria for the CACFP](#), [Crediting Whole Grains in the CACFP](#), and [Crediting Enriched Grains in the CACFP](#).

Note: At least one serving of grains per day must be WGR, between all meals and snacks served. The USDA’s [CACFP Best Practices](#) recommends at least two servings of WGR grains per day.

This chart applies to WGR and enriched commercial grain products. It may also be used for WGR and enriched foods made on site, if the recipe indicates the weight of the prepared (cooked) serving. For more information, see the CSDE’s handout, [Calculation Methods for Grain Servings in the CACFP](#).

| Group A | Oz Eq for Group A ¹ |
|--|---|
| Bread-type coating Bread sticks, hard Chow mein noodles Crackers, savory, e.g., saltines and snack crackers Croutons Pretzels, hard Stuffing, dry (<i>weights apply to bread in stuffing</i>) | 1 serving = 20 grams or 0.7 ounce ¾ serving = 15 grams or 0.5 ounce ½ serving = 10 grams or 0.4 ounce ¼ serving = 5 grams or 0.2 ounce |
| Group B | Oz Eq for Group B ¹ |
| Bagels Batter-type coating Biscuits Breads, e.g., white, wheat, whole wheat, French, Italian Buns, hamburger and hot dog Crackers, sweet, e.g., graham crackers and animal crackers ¹ Egg roll skins English muffins Pita bread, e.g., white, wheat, whole wheat Pizza crust Pretzels, soft Rolls, e.g., white, wheat, whole wheat Tortillas, wheat or corn Tortilla chips, wheat or corn Taco shells | 1 serving = 25 grams or 0.9 ounce ¾ serving = 19 grams or 0.7 ounce ½ serving = 13 grams or 0.5 ounce ¼ serving = 6 grams or 0.2 ounce |

Grain Servings for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

| Group C | Oz Eq for Group C ¹ |
|---|---|
| Cornbread Corn muffins Croissants Pancakes Pie crust (only in meat/meat alternate pies) Waffles | 1 serving = 31 grams or 1.1 ounces ¾ serving = 23 grams or 0.8 ounce ½ serving = 16 grams or 0.6 ounce ¼ serving = 8 grams or 0.3 ounce |
| Group D | Oz Eq for Group D ¹ |
| Muffins, all except corn | 1 serving = 50 grams or 1.8 ounces ¾ serving = 38 grams or 1.3 ounces ½ serving = 25 grams or 0.9 ounce ¼ serving = 13 grams or 0.5 ounce |
| Group E | Oz Eq for Group E ¹ |
| French toast | 1 serving = 63 grams or 2.2 ounces ¾ serving = 47 grams or 1.7 ounces ½ serving = 31 grams or 1.1 ounces ¼ serving = 16 grams or 0.6 ounce |
| Group F | Oz Eq for Group F ¹ |
| None (grain-based desserts do not credit) ² | None |
| Group G | Oz Eq for Group G ¹ |
| None (grain-based desserts do not credit) | None |
| Group H | Oz Eq for Group H ¹ |
| Barley Breakfast cereals, cooked ³ Bulgur or cracked wheat Cereal grains, e.g., amaranth, buckwheat, cornmeal, corn grits, farina, kasha, millet, oats, quinoa, wheat berries, and rolled wheat Macaroni, all shapes Noodles, all varieties Pasta, all shapes Ravioli, noodle only Rice, brown or enriched white | 1 serving = ½ cup cooked (or 25 grams dry) ½ serving = ¼ cup cooked (or 13 grams dry) |

Grain Servings for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

| Group I | Oz Eq for Group I ¹ |
|--|--|
| Ready-to-eat (RTE) breakfast cereals (cold dry) ³ | 1 serving = $\frac{3}{4}$ cup or 1 ounce, whichever is less $\frac{1}{2}$ serving (ages 3-4) = $\frac{1}{3}$ cup or $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, whichever is less $\frac{1}{3}$ serving (ages 1-2) = $\frac{1}{4}$ cup or $\frac{1}{3}$ ounce, whichever is less |

¹ As a best practice, the USDA encourages CACFP menus to limit sweet crackers (graham crackers and animal crackers) because of their higher sugar content. The CSDE recommends not serving sweet crackers more than twice per week, between all meals and snacks served.

² Grain-based desserts (excluding sweet crackers such as graham crackers and animal crackers) are not listed in this chart because they do not credit in the preschool meal patterns. Examples of grain-based desserts include brownies, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, coffee cakes, cinnamon streusel quick breads, pie crusts in sweet pies (e.g., apple, coconut, blueberry, and pecan), cinnamon rolls, doughnuts, cereal bars, granola bars, breakfast bars, sweet rolls, pastries, toaster pastries, sweet scones (e.g., blueberry, raisin, and orange cranberry), rice pudding, and sweet bread pudding. For more information, see USDA's handout, *Grain-Based Desserts in the CACFP*.

³ RTE and cooked breakfast cereals must be whole-grain, enriched, or fortified; and cannot contain more than 6 grams of sugars per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams of sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal). For more information, see the CSDE's handout, *Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the CACFP*.

Resources

Adding Whole Grains to Your CACFP Menu (USDA):

https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/tn/FNS_USDA_CACFP_11_AddingWholeGrains_04-508c.pdf

CACFP Best Practices (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cacfp/CACFP_factBP.pdf

CACFP Training Tools (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp-training-tools>

Calculation Methods for Grain Servings in CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/GrainCalcCACFP.pdf>

Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/CreditCerealsCACFP.pdf>

Crediting Enriched Grains in the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/CreditEnrichedCACFP.pdf>

Crediting Foods in CACFP Adult Day Care Centers (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Crediting-Foods-in-CACFP-Adult-Day-Care-Centers>

Grain Servings for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Crediting Foods in CACFP Child Care Programs (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Crediting-Foods-in-CACFP-Child-Care-Programs>

Crediting Whole Grains in the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/CreditWholeGrainsCACFP.pdf>.

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Grain Ounce Equivalents for the CACFP (effective October 1, 2021) (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/OzEqCACFP.pdf>

Grain-Based Desserts in the CACFP (USDA):

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/tn/CACFPGrainBasedDesserts.pdf>

How to Identify Creditable Grains in the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/IdentifyCreditableGrainsCACFP.pdf>

Meal Patterns for CACFP Adult Day Care Centers (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Meal-Patterns-CACFP-Adult-Centers>

Meal Patterns for CACFP Child Care Programs (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Meal-Patterns-CACFP-Child-Care-Programs>

Product Formulation Statement for Grains: Ounce Equivalents (effective October 1, 2021) (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Documenting_Grains_oz_eq.pdf

Product Formulation Statement for Grains: Servings (through September 30, 2021) (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Documenting_Grains_Breads_Servings.pdf

Sample Completed Product Formulation Statement for Grains: Ounce Equivalents (effective October 1, 2021) (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Sample_oz_eq.pdf

Sample Completed Product Formulation Statement for Grains: Servings (through September 30, 2021) (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Samples_Grains_Breads_Servings.pdf

USDA Final Rule (81 FR 24347): CACFP Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/fr-042516>

USDA Final Rule Corrections (81 FR 75671): Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/11/01/2016-26339/child-and-adult-care-food-program-meal-pattern-revisions-related-to-the-healthy-hunger-free-kids-act>

Grain Servings for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

USDA Final Rule (84 FR 50287): Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the Child and Adult Care Food Program:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/09/25/2019-20808/delayed-implementation-of-grains-ounce-equivalents-in-the-child-and-adult-care-food-program>

USDA Memo CACFP 09-2018: Grain Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/grain-requirements-child-and-adult-care-food-program-questions-and-answers-0>

USDA Memo CACFP 16-2017: Grain-Based Desserts in the Child and Adult Care Food Program:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/grain-based-desserts-child-and-adult-care-food-program>

USDA Memo SP 34-2019, CACFP 15-2019 and SFSP 15-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Memos/OM2019/SP34_CACFP15_SFSP15-2019s.pdf

Using Child Nutrition (CN) Labels in the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/CNlabelCACFP.pdf>

Using Product Formulation Statements in the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/PFScacfp.pdf>

Whole Grain-rich Criteria for the CACFP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/WGRCriteriaCACFP.pdf>

Grain Servings for the Child and Adult Care Food Program



For more information, visit the CSDE's [Crediting Foods in CACFP Child Care Programs](#) and [Crediting Foods in CACFP Adult Day Care Centers](#) webpages, or contact the [CACFP staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This handout is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Crediting/GrainsCACFP.pdf>.

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