

## **Breakfast - Offer versus Serve Policy** **2023-2024**

**Name of Local Education Agency (LEA):** TEAM Academy Charter Schools, Inc.

**Implementation Date:** August 15, 2023 - June 14, 2024

**Implementation Schools:** Offer versus Serve is implemented in all schools in TEAM Academy Charter Schools, Inc.

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 breakfast eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer four (4) food *items* from the three (3) food *components* in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

1. Fruit (including optional vegetables)
2. Grains (including optional meat/meat alternate)
3. Milk

Students are allowed to decline one (1) of the four (4) *items* offered, but must select at least ½ cup of fruit (or ½ cup of vegetables) or ½ cup of a fruit /vegetable combination.

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

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

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 an item, such as milk.

At each of the schools, school food service staff are trained annually on the OVS policy. Signs are also posted to assist students in identifying a reimbursable meal under OVS.