



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL POLICY

In Texas, organizations contracting directly with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to operate nutrition programs federally funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are called Contracting Entities, or CEs. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded nutrition program and, as such, sponsors are considered CEs. CEs operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) should reference the *Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM) Section 12, Seamless Summer Option*, for guidance.

Each year, the USDA publishes the SFSP *Administrative Guidance for Sponsors (AGS)* which provides federal policy, program guidance and information for all CEs that participate or plan to participate in SFSP. TDA occasionally issues a Clarification of Federal Policy, such as this one, to supplement and clarify federal policy set out in the AGS.

Smoothies Offered in SFSP

On January 14, 2015, USDA issued policy memorandum [SFSP 10-2014 \(v.2\), Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs](#) which replaced existing guidance on smoothies served in SFSP.

Smoothies prepared by CEs may count towards the required milk, meat/meat alternate, fruit, or vegetable components for a reimbursable breakfast or lunch. Grains *cannot* be credited when served in a smoothie.

For example, this 1 ½ cup blueberry, yogurt with milk smoothie could contribute the following to SFSP meal requirements:

Ingredient	Crediting
4 fl oz fat free milk	½ cup of milk
½ cup blueberry puree, frozen	½ cup of fruit juice
4 oz low fat yogurt	1 oz meat alternate

When smoothies are offered as part of a breakfast or lunch, additional milk, fruit, vegetable, and/or a meat/meat alternate *must be offered* if the amount served in the smoothie does not fulfill the minimum serving sizes needed to meet the SFSP meal pattern requirements.

CEs should refer to *The Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* for determining the creditability of foods, which is available on <http://www.summerfood.org>.

NOTE: CEs must maintain accurate records to document SFSP meal pattern requirements were met for all meals claimed. This may include, but is not limited to receipts and/or invoices, meal production records, and product documentation from a food manufacturer, if applicable.

Crediting of Milk

Fluid milk used in smoothies made by CEs is a creditable food item towards meeting the fluid milk component. USDA recommends CEs serve other varieties of fluid milk and monitor milk consumption to ensure that the service of smoothies does not compromise the children's consumption of milk.

Crediting of Yogurt

Dairy yogurt used in smoothies prepared by CEs is creditable towards the meat/meat alternate component for breakfast and is the only creditable meat/meat alternate allowed in a smoothie.

Crediting of Fruit/Vegetables

Pureed fruits and vegetables, when served in smoothies prepared by CEs, may be counted as fruit or vegetable juice and credited towards the fruit/vegetable component of meal pattern requirements, and as such are subject to the limitations regarding juice service. Pureed fruits or vegetables, when served in a smoothie, may not be counted as more than fifty percent of the fruit/vegetable component for lunch, but may be counted as the entire fruit/vegetable component for breakfast. Vegetables which are fresh, frozen, canned, 100% vegetable juice, or 100% vegetable and fruit juice blends are creditable towards the vegetable component. Vegetables from the dry beans and peas subgroup may also credit towards the vegetable component as juice when served in a smoothie.

Crediting of pureed fruit/vegetables is determined on a volume as served basis. CEs should be aware that certain pureed fruits (e.g. figs, plums, and others) have specific yield information and should refer to *The Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* to ensure the volume of the pureed fruit or vegetable is creditable, and is the amount needed to count toward serving minimum requirements.

Commercially Prepared Smoothies

Commercially prepared smoothies may only credit towards the fruit/vegetable component.

NOTE: Commercially prepared smoothies must have a Child Nutrition label, product formulation statement, or other documentation from the manufacturer which verifies the creditability of a food.