

## Clarification of Federal Policy

In Texas, organizations that contract directly with Texas Department of Agriculture's USDA federally funded nutrition programs are called Contracting Entities or CEs. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is identified as a nutrition program and, as such, sponsors are considered CEs.

### Off-Site Consumption of Food

Contracting entities (CEs) may allow a child to consume an apple (or similar fruit or vegetable item) that is part of the Vegetable/Fruit component of the meal:

- At an off-site location, or
- During the trip to an off-site location.

Examples of off-site foods include a raw piece of fruit or vegetable or packaged pieces of cut-up fruit or vegetables, such as packaged carrot sticks.

CEs may implement this option at some or all sites. A food item taken off-site must come from the child's own meal or from a "sharing table" left by a child who did not want it. Before choosing the off-site option, CEs must have an adequate number of staff who are trained and prepared to handle the additional administrative and monitoring requirements associated with off-site food consumption, and TDA must approve the CE's implementation of the option. If TDA is unable to resolve questions regarding a CE's ability to properly supervise and monitor off-site food consumption, TDA may prohibit the CE from implementing the option at some or all sites.

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