IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE FOR UPDATING THE SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS FINAL RULE

School meals will continue to include fruits and vegetables, emphasize whole grains, and give kids the right balance of nutrients for healthy, tasty meals. For the first time, schools will focus on products with less added sugar, especially in school breakfast.

Fall 2024

Flavored Milk

No changes to flavored milk standards.

Additional Menu Options

Make it easier for schools to offer local, vegetarian, and culturally appropriate menu items.



Fall 2027

Added Sugars

No more than 10% of the weekly calories.

Sodium

10% reduction for breakfast.
15% reduction for lunch.



USDA issues final rule on long-term school nutrition standards after listening to public feedback and following recommendations from the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.



Fall 2025

Added Sugars in

Limit on added sugars in cereals, yogurt, and milk.

Flavored Milk

Allow flavored milk with limits on added sugars.



No required changes; schools can voluntarily continue to gradually reduce amount of added sugars and sodium.

