

Lunch Meal Pattern for Uncommon Grade Groupings¹		
	Grades K-8²	Grades 9-12³
Meal Pattern	Amount of Food per Week (Minimum per Day)	
Fruit (cups)	2 ½ (1/2)	Offer ½ cup more daily
Vegetables (cups)	3 ¾ (3/4)	Offer ¼ cup more daily
Dark Green	½	Same as K-8
Red/Orange	¾	Offer ½ cup more over week
Beans/Peas	½	Same as K-8
Starchy	½	Same as K-8
Other	½	Offer ¼ cup more over the week
Additional Veg to Reach Total	1	Offer ½ cup more over the week
Grains (oz eq)	Minimum 8 (1) to meet grades K-8 Minimum 10 (2) to meet grades 9-12	
Meats/Meat Alternates (oz eq)	Minimum 9 (1) to meet grades K-8 Minimum 10 (2) to meet grades 9-12	
Fluid Milk (cups)	5 (1)	
Other Specifications: Daily Amount Based on Average for 5-Day Week		
Min-Max Calories (kcal)	600-650	750-850
Saturated Fat (% of total calories)	<10	<10
Sodium (mg)	Target 1 - ≤ 1,230 Target 2 - ≤ 935 Target 3 - ≤ 640	Target 1 - ≤ 1,420 Target 2 - ≤ 1,080 Target 3 - ≤ 740
Trans Fat	Nutrition label or manufacturer specifications must indicate zero grams of trans fat per serving.	

¹**Uncommon Grade Groupings** include schools that have grades that do not fit into a particular column in USDA's lunch meal pattern. Instead of K-5, 6-8, 9-12, schools might have grades K-6, 5-8, or 7-12, etc. Schools that have a different configuration will need to follow this meal pattern.

²**Grades K-8** can include any configuration of those grades. For example, a school should use this column if they have grades K-6 (or some other combination between K-8) eating in the same cafeteria.

³**Grades 9-12** is separate from grades K-8 because the requirements for this grouping are different. This pattern must be followed for these grades even if this grade group is combined with other grades at the same school, for example K-9 or 6-9, etc.