



The Share Table

Reducing Waste in the Lunch Room

What is a Share Table?

The Share Table is place where students can share unopened food items they choose not to eat. Students can drop this food off immediately after leaving the serving line. This provides opportunity for other students, who may still be hungry after eating, to take additional food items from the Share Table at no extra cost.



Our Commitment to Reducing Waste

Denver Public Schools uses a concept called “Offer versus Serve” (OVS) to plan meals, reduce waste, and allow students to choose only the foods they want to eat. Menus are designed to include foods from each of the five food groups; milk, protein, whole grain, fruit, and vegetable. Students are allowed to choose all five items but they are only required to take at least 3 components for lunch. One of the 3 items must be a fruit or vegetable.

ITEMS OK TO SHARE



During breakfast, we offer 4 food groups: milk, protein, whole grain, and fruit. Students can take all 4 if they choose but they are only required to choose 3. One of these must be a fruit or fruit juice.

ITEMS NOT OK TO SHARE



The Share Table also provides an extra opportunity for students to learn. Students will build empathy by looking out for each other, which builds a strong school community. It has also shown to influence kids’ dietary choices at home and behavior patterns that will carry into adulthood. It will also prevent ‘hangry’ kids from being too distracted to learn.

What can be placed on the Share Table?

- ★ Pre-packaged food
- ★ Unopened wrapped food and beverages
- ★ Fruits with a peel (no apples, unless re-washed)

Examples include:

- ★ Unopened milk, cheese sticks, yogurt, fruit, and vegetables
- ★ Unopened crackers, cereal bars, and chips
- ★ Wrapped fresh fruit and vegetables
- ★ Unwrapped whole fruits with an inedible peel, such as a banana or orange

No items from home can be placed on the Share Table

Share Tables will follow the USDA Share Table Guidelines