

FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Save It For Later?

Save It For Later is a program being implemented by the LAUSD Food Services Division to reduce food waste at schools. There are 2 main elements of the program:

1. Food Service staff to effectively manage production quantity to reduce leftovers.
2. Sharing tables set up on school campus allowing students to save non-perishable food items for consumption at a later time beyond breakfast and lunch service times.

Who regulates the Save It For Later program and where can I find more information on the regulations?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and California Department of Education (CDE) are the regulatory agencies for the program. Per [USDA Memoranda SP 41-2014](#), the agency "*recognizes that it is not always possible for students to finish all components of their meal within the meal service period. Therefore, the USDA allows students to take certain food items outside the foodservice area to consume later in the school day.*" [CDE Management Bulletin CNP-05-2015](#) supports this policy and its issuance replaces MB USDA-SFSP-03-2012: Traveling Apple Policy.

Why are we encouraging Save It For Later?

LAUSD supports Federal and State initiatives and regulations. The program benefits students and the school communities by reducing food waste, encouraging student consumption/access to healthy foods; and utilizing food surplus to support school communities through the Food Donation program.

How is this beneficial to the students?

The program conforms to the requirements of the HHFK (Healthy Hunger Free Kids) Act of 2010 which encourages the consumption of more fresh fruits and vegetables. Due to the limited time available for students to consume their meals, and the increased amount of fruits and vegetables required in reimbursable meals, students now have the opportunity to save some food items to eat at a later time when they are hungry.

What are sharing tables?

In order to allow students to take food for consumption at a later time, CDE permits the use of sharing tables. A sharing table is a defined space set up in the service area where students can leave food which they do not wish to eat after they have picked up a reimbursable meal as required under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Any student who would like to take a food item from the sharing table to eat may do so. If they wish to save some of the food for consumption at a later time, they may choose a food item listed on the chart below.

What food items are children allowed to take/save for later consumption?

The USDA allows students to save food items for consumption outside of a meal service area, as long as the food item does not require cooling or heating. Based on Café LA’s current menus, the following items may be saved:

| Breakfast | Lunch |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| All dry fruit | Whole fruit |
| Whole fruit | Applesauce cup |
| Café LA Coffee Cake | Bagged baby carrots |
| Cold Cereal | Breadsticks |
| | Dinner roll |
| | Granola |
| | Tortilla chips |

Children are allowed to take non-perishable fruit, vegetable, or grain food items from their meal, or from the sharing table. They may then eat them later outside the service time and area.

Are students allowed to take non-perishable food items home to eat?

Per USDA Memoranda SP 41-2014, the policy is intended to address practical constraints that may prevent students from consuming their entire meal in the foodservice area. However, this flexibility does not imply that school meals may be given to children to take home.

CDE continues to encourage schools to allow students a reasonable amount of time to consume their meal during the meal service period. LAUSD Board of Education supports this position by adoption of the December 2012 *“Improving Food and Nutrition Policy”* Resolution requiring that all school bell schedules allow every student at least 20 minutes to eat a school meal.



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