

Share Table Policies

- 1) **Purpose and Use:** The use of Share Tables is an innovative strategy to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods and reduce food waste in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). Share tables are designated stations where children may return whole food or beverage items they choose not to eat. Children may take an additional helping of food or beverage from the share table at no additional cost. Share tables allow students to give away their unwanted, still sealed or unbitten food items so other student can select these food and beverage items during the meal service. As a reminder, all CNP operators must plan, prepare, and order food with the goal of providing one meal per child at each meal service.

- 2) **SA Requirements and Restrictions:** Any School Food Authority (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) within the State of Mississippi has the option of implementing a Share Table given that the conditions (as enumerated in sections a-f) are met.
 - a) **Food Safety:**
 - i) The site must comply with all MSDH regulations. The SA recommends that the site consult with their MSDH Environmentalist regarding implementation of their specific plans for a share table.
 - ii) The site must implement adequate Food Safe Practices which must include:
 - (1) Development of written Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for sharing food or beverage items that are consistent with the SFA's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan. The written HACCP plan must be specific to the operation of the share table and consistent with applicable federal, state, and local food safety requirements as well as food safety requirements outlined in 7 CFR 210.13, 220.7, 226.20(l), and 225.16(a);
 - (2) Maintenance of a separate area on the Share Table for hot/cold items to allow proper temperature control ($\leq 41^{\circ}$ F for cold items and $\geq 135^{\circ}$ F for hot items). All potentially hazardous foods must be maintained under proper food holding temperatures to prevent the potential for rapid bacterial growth. Once foods leave their hot or cold environment, they are considered outside the Safe Temperature Zone. Temperature control mechanisms can include an ice tub, ice sheets, or cooler for cold items as well as a designated warmer for hot items. A temperature log of the temperature control mechanism(s) on the Share Table must be maintained with temps recorded at the beginning and end of each service period.

 - b) **Student Consumption Restrictions:** Items left on the share table must be consumed by eligible students during the meal service period. Food items should not be picked up from the share table and carried to the classroom or other location outside of the cafeteria/communal eating space.

- c) **Adult Consumption Exclusion:** The site must implement safeguards against consumption of share table items by adults (both program and non-program adults)
 - i) The site must have a written policy against adult consumption that must be included in either the student handbook, faculty handbook, or school wellness policy.

- d) **Signage and Allowable Food Items:** The site must limit the types of food items that can be left on the share table and post clear signage to that effect. The designated food share table, basket, crate, or bin must be marked clearly with signage that provides examples of both allowable and unallowable items.
 - i) The following items are **allowable**:
 - (1) Unopened pre-packaged items such as a bag of baby carrots or sliced apples stored in a cooling bin.
 - (2) Whole pieces of fruit with a peel such as bananas or oranges.
 - (3) Whole piece of fruit with an edible peel, such as apples and pears, must be rewashed unless wrapped.
 - (4) Unopened milk, if immediately stored in a cooling bin maintained at 41 F or below.

 - ii) The following items are **unallowable** and must be excluded:
 - (1) foods not provided by the school meal program (food brought from home).
 - (2) Unpackaged items such as a salad bowl without a lid.
 - (3) Packaged items that can be opened and resealed.
 - (4) Open items, such as an opened bag of baby carrots or sliced apples.
 - (5) Perishable foods, when a temperature control mechanism is not in place (for example, all heated and cooked foods should be excluded unless a warmer is provided and the product is properly sealed as described in the preceding section).

- e) **In-Service Monitoring:** The site must assign a school food service employee (preferably one other than the cashier) within clear view of the Share Table to monitor the Share Table and to intervene as a safeguard against:
 - i) Any potential food safety concern or food item contamination;
 - ii) Any improper utilization of the share table by students; and
 - iii) Any utilization of the share table by adults.

- f) **Disposal of Remaining Food Items:** Items left on the share table at the conclusion of the meal service must be immediately discarded by school food service staff. Food or beverage items left on the share table MAY NOT be served and claimed for reimbursement during another meal service. Under no circumstances should share table items be served, dispersed, or otherwise distributed to adults (including both program and non-program adults).

The image features a central brown rectangular sign with the words "SHARE TABLE" written in large, white, rounded, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is surrounded by several hands of different skin tones reaching towards it from the corners. Some hands are holding small orange hearts. The background is white with scattered small orange dots.

SHARE TABLE

Do you have cafeteria food left after eating your meal? Place in the bin for others to share.

SHARE THIS:

- Unopened packages
- Fruit in a peel
- Unopened milk or juice boxes

DON'T SHARE THIS:

- Opened Packages
- Anything with a bite out of it
- Items from home

Adults, please do not take any food from the shared bins.




SHARE TABLE




Students only
please!



SHARE THIS:

- Unopened packages
 - Fruit in a peel
 - Unopened milk or juice boxes
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DON'T SHARE THIS:

- opened packages
 - Anything with a bite out of it
 - Items from home
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