

# SERVING METHODS

## FOR DELIVERING MEALS AND SNACKS TO STUDENTS

Choose the best serving method for your school environment based on staff and volunteer capacity, food preparation space, budget and other contributing factors. All serving methods can lead to a fun, warm, and caring place for students to access food at school!

Method	Considerations
<b>Meal or Snack Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides a group of students with room to sit and enjoy their meal or snack at tables.</li><li>• Tables could be set up temporarily or in a dedicated room.</li><li>• Can help facilitate family style meal service and student involvement in meal preparation.</li><li>• Requires no special transportation or packaging of foods.</li><li>• May not work if students don't have dedicated time to sit down for eating.</li></ul>
<b>Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can reach a large number of students or potentially the whole school environment.</li><li>• Works well when classroom schedules are flexible enough to incorporate meals or snacks into the day and staff have the capacity to assist with serving and cleaning up in the classroom.</li><li>• Food can be delivered and served in the classroom before the first morning class or during break time. Foods must be chosen and prepared considering how long they will be available in the classroom (for example, non-perishable items if sitting out all day).</li><li>• Student volunteers can deliver bins or carts, prepared in advance with meals or snacks, to each classroom.</li></ul>
<b>Grab &amp; Go</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works particularly well for older students and scenarios where there isn't time or space for sitting down to eat.</li><li>• Foods are individually packaged (for example, in a bag or wrapped in food safe paper) or served whole (for example, fruit or muffin).</li><li>• Food can be set out and ready for pick up at various sites in the school, such as the office, resource room, or study area. Can also be set up with food carts in the hallways for quick service and to catch students coming in or out of the school.</li></ul>
<b>Canteen or Cafeteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foods can be offered in a cafeteria or canteen during a designated "free" meal or snack time as self-serve or as served items.</li><li>• Food items can be prepared meals and snacks or grab and go items.</li><li>• A unique system can be used, where your nutrition program reimburses the cost of meals and/or snacks that students pick up from the canteen or cafeteria during school hours.</li></ul>