

School Environmental Health and Safety

Share Table Food Safety

Guidelines

While students are encouraged to choose what they will eat, and eat what they choose, the Share Table offers an opportunity for sharing food items that would otherwise be thrown away. Share Tables are designated stations to reduce the amount of food waste and provide any student the opportunity to take additional helpings of food or milk at no extra cost. When students exit the food service line, they can stop by the share table and drop off packaged food items that they do not want to eat. Packaged shelf stable items on one shelf or bin and cold items in a cooler or bin on ice mats or ice blocks to help keep these items cold.

Additional food safety information can be found from the USDA Child Nutrition Program* and the Washington State Retail Food Code 246-215 Washington Administrative Code**.

Share Table Set Up



- ❑ Set up the Share Table in a location so that food service staff can help students place items in the correct bin and ensure only packaged items or whole fruit are shared.
- ❑ Place signs on the Share Table to help students place food items in the right bin.
- ❑ Label one shelf or bin for packaged food items that do not need temperature control for safety such as granola or breakfast bars, whole fruit, packaged crackers, shelf stable juice boxes.
- ❑ Place a cooler or bin with ice sheets or ice blocks for students to place food needing temperature control for safety such as milk, cheese sticks or yogurt cups. These items must be placed back in refrigeration as soon as possible after the meal service.
- ❑ Cold food items like milk or cheese sticks that are kept at 41°F or below, may be reserved. If warmed above 41°F, the food must be discarded.
- ❑ Leftover unopened packaged items like breakfast bars or crackers can be reserved or donated.



Foods to Share

Unopened packages like:
Breakfast bars, Shelf stable juice boxes or Whole fruit

Place these items on ice:
Milk, Cheese sticks, Yogurt cups



Do Not Share

Opened packages of food
Food from home
Hot foods
Cold items warmed above 41°F

*USDA Share Table Policy Memo.

**Washington Administrative Code 246-215 Food Service.