

Flowchart for Determining Creditable Grains in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

The criteria to determine whether a grain product is creditable in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) depends on whether the product is a breakfast or infant cereal, or another grain product. **Below is a flowchart to determine if a breakfast or infant cereal is creditable.** The reverse side includes a flowchart to determine if a grain product other than a breakfast or infant cereal is creditable.

Breakfast and Infant Cereals

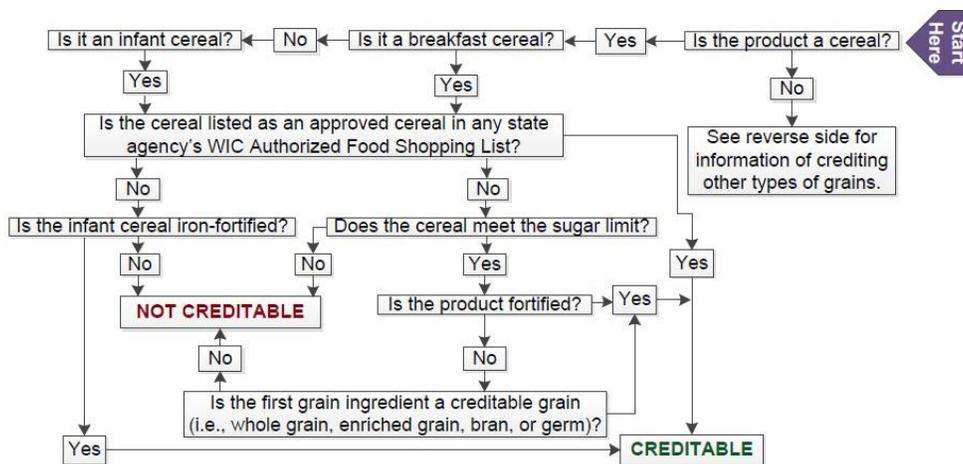
Breakfast Cereals include instant cereals (e.g., instant oatmeal and cream of wheat), hot cereals (e.g., rolled oats), and ready-to-eat (RTE) cereals (e.g., puffed rice, rounds, flakes, and granola). Breakfast cereals served in the CACFP cannot contain more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.

Tip! Instant and hot cereals are **not** creditable for infants. However, RTE cereals are creditable as the grain component for infants **only at snack**.

Infant Cereals are cereals designed for babies that are usually prepared by adding water, breastmilk, or infant formula. Examples include infant wheat cereals, infant oat cereals, infant rice cereals, and infant mixed grain cereals.

Tip! Infant cereals must be iron-fortified to meet the CACFP infant meal pattern requirements.

Figure 1. Flowchart 1



[Long description of Figure 1. Flowchart 1](#)

Pro Shopping Tip: WIC Authorized Cereals

All infant and breakfast cereals listed in any state agency's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Authorized Food List Shopping Guide meet the sugar requirement and are creditable in the CACFP. See the USDA WIC Contacts web page at <https://bit.ly/2JAO2d1> for links to all state agencies' WIC shopping lists.



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Other Grain Products (not including breakfast and infant cereals)

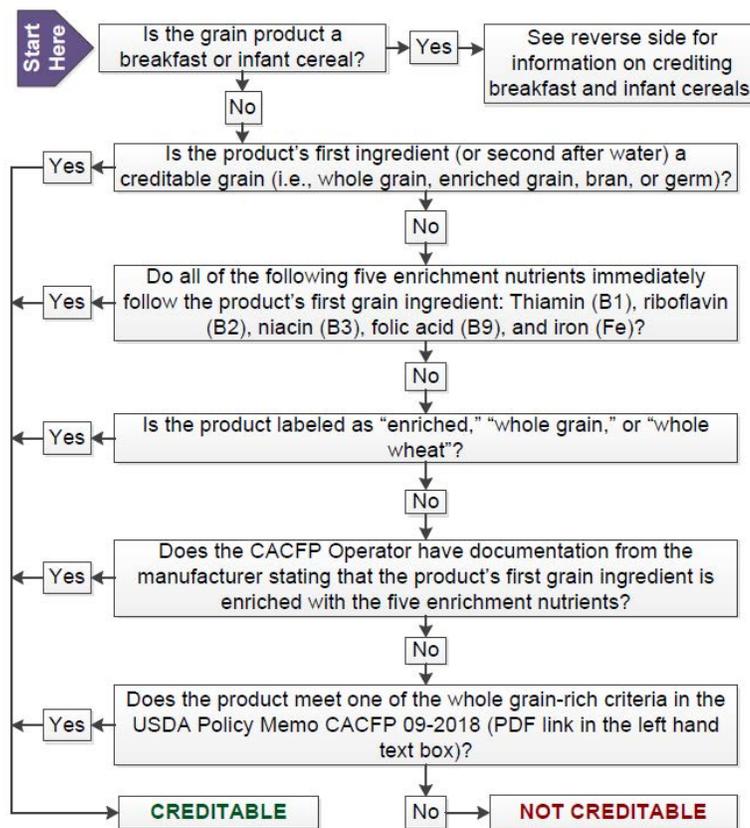
Other grain products include items such as bread, crackers, tortillas, pizza crust, muffins, pasta, rice, and many more items.

Tip!

Grain-based desserts (e.g., cookies, doughnuts, cereal bars, granola bars, cake, and brownies) noted with the superscripts 3 and 4 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Program Operators (PDF): <https://bit.ly/2JE5woM>, are not creditable toward the grains component in meals and snacks served in the CACFP.

Figure 2. Flowchart 2

Resource:
USDA Policy Memorandum CACFP 09- 2018:
Grain Requirements in the CACFP; Questions and Answers (PDF):
<https://bit.ly/2JwVx4T>



[Long description of Figure 2. Flowchart 2](#)



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