

# Ensuring Equitable Access: Kosher and Halal School Meals

July 9, 2023

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# Disclosures & Affiliations

- Heather Hopwood, **Nothing to Disclose**
- Lisa Mays, **Nothing to Disclose**
- Jessica Reed, **Nothing to Disclose**
- Jennifer Hofer, **Nothing to Disclose**



Children participate in USDA's Iftar celebration



# Agenda

- Background
- How kosher and halal foods can fit into SBP and NSLP meal pattern requirements
- How USDA Foods support kosher and halal school meals
- School district experiences:
  - Lessons learned & best practices
  - Support & partnerships
  - Building trust & communicating with students and families



Children participate in USDA's Iftar celebration



# USDA Priority: Nutrition Security

USDA is:

- Advancing nutrition security in an equitable way that supports resilient, sustainable food systems for all
- Committed to offering a variety of nutritious, domestically produced food options – including kosher and halal foods – through the SBP and NSLP to be inclusive and to meet the needs of **ALL** communities



# What is **KOSHER**?

A Jewish dietary framework for food preparation, processing, and consumption



- Variations exist
- Most guidelines forbid pairing meat and dairy and allow only certain animals to be eaten
- Foods not considered meat or dairy are generally accepted, provided they're produced using Kosher equipment and practices
- Fish, eggs, and plant-based foods are usually neutral: they do not contain meat or dairy and may be eaten with either of those food groups

# What is HALAL?

An Islamic dietary framework for food preparation, processing, and consumption

- Variations exist
- Guidelines typically do not permit:
  - Pork products
  - Alcohol and products that contain alcohol, or
  - Foods containing ingredients that use non-Halal, animal-derived products



# Strongly Encouraged, Not Required

## 7 CFR 210.10(m)(3)

***Variations for ethnic, religious, or economic reasons.*** Schools should consider ethnic and religious preferences when planning and preparing meals. Variations on an experimental or continuing basis in the food components for the meal pattern in paragraph (c) of this section may be allowed by FNS. Any variations must be consistent with the food and nutrition requirements specified under this section and needed to meet ethnic, religious, or economic needs.

- SFAs are **strongly encouraged** to consider students' dietary preferences
- SFAs are **not required** to make meal modifications for religious reasons



# Meal Pattern Requirements:

## How do **KOSHER** and **HALAL** foods fit?

- Kosher and halal foods can fit into existing NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements
  - Crediting is the same for kosher/non-kosher foods and halal/non-halal foods
- Flexibilities for schools serving Jewish students:
  - Meat and dairy are not required to be offered together
  - Allows unenriched matzo to credit for Grains component during Passover
  - Exempts dark green vegetable requirement
  - Apply to CACFP and SFSP

**USDA Instruction: Flexibilities for Schools serving Jewish students**



# Kosher and Halal Options Through USDA Foods




**Lisa Mays**  
*Nutritionist*

# Foods Available List – Certified Foods


Apple Slices, Unsweetened, Frozen (IQF)
Applesauce, Unsweetened, Canned (K)
Applesauce, Unsweetened, Cups, Shelf-stable

Kosher certified foods are indicated with a “(K)” on the Foods Available List

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foods-available>



## USDA Foods Available List for School Year 2023-2024 for Schools and Institutions



USDA Foods Description	WBSM #	PACK SIZE	USDA Foods Description	WBSM #	PACK SIZE	SUBGROUP
<b>FRUITS</b>			<b>VEGETABLES</b>			
Apples, Braeburn, Fresh	100523	40 lb case	Beans, Green, Low-sodium, Canned (K)	100307	6/#10 can	OTH
Apples, Empire, Fresh	100517	40 lb case	Beans, Green, No Salt Added, Frozen	100351	30 lb case	OTH
Apples, Fuji, Fresh	100522	40 lb case	Beans, Green, No Salt Added, Frozen	111054	12/2 lb bag	OTH
Apples, Gala, Fresh	100521	40 lb case	Broccoli Florets, No Salt Added, Frozen	110473	30 lb case	OVG
Apples, Granny Smith, Fresh	110543	40 lb case	Carrots, Diced, No Salt Added, Frozen	110480	30 lb case	RO
Apples, Red Delicious, Fresh	100514	40 lb case	Carrots, Diced, No Salt Added, Frozen	111052	12/2 lb case	RO
Apple Slices, Unsweetened, Canned	100206	6/#10 can	Carrots, Sliced, Low-sodium, Canned	100309	6/#10 can	RO
Apples, Unsweetened, Frozen (IQF)	100258	30 lb case	Carrots, Sliced, No Salt Added, Frozen	100352	30 lb case	RO
Applesauce, Unsweetened, Canned (K)	110541	6/#10 can	Corn, Whole Kernel, No Salt Added, Canned (K)	100313	6/#10 can	ST
Applesauce, Unsweetened, Cups, Shelf-Stable	110361	96/4.5 oz cup	Corn, Whole Kernel, No Salt Added, Frozen	100348	30 lb case	ST
Apples, For Processing	110149	Bulk Pounds	Corn, Whole Kernel, No Salt Added, Frozen	111053	12/2.5 lb bag	ST
Apricots, Diced, Cups, Frozen	100261	96/4.5 oz cup	Mixed Vegetables, No Salt Added, Frozen	111230	6/5 lb bag	ADD'L
Apricots, Diced, Extra Light Syrup, Canned	100216	6/#10 can	Peas, Green, Low-sodium, Canned	100315	6/#10 can	ST
Blueberries, Wild, Unsweetened, Frozen	100243	30 lb case	Peas, Green, No Salt Added, Frozen	100350	30 lb case	ST
Blueberries, Wild, Unsweetened, Frozen	100242	8/3 lb bag	Peas, Green, No Salt Added, Frozen	110763	12/2.5 lb bag	ST
Blueberries, Unsweetened, Frozen	110624	30 lb case	Pepper/Onion Strips, No Salt Added, Frozen	110724	30 lb case	OTH
Blueberries, Unsweetened, Frozen	110623	12/2.5 lb bag	Potatoes, Diced, No Salt Added, Frozen	110844	6/5 lb bag	ST
Cherries, Tart, Dried	100299	4/4 lb bag	Potatoes, Oven Fries, Low-sodium, Frozen	100357	6/5 lb bag	ST
Cherries, Tart, Dried, Individual Portion	111643	250/1.36 oz bag	Potatoes, Wedges, Fat Free, Low-sodium, Frozen (IQF)	100356	6/5 lb bag	ST
Cherries, Sweet, Pitted, Unsweetened, Frozen (IQF)	110872	12/2.5 lb bag	Potatoes, Wedges, Low-sodium, Frozen (IQF)	100355	6/5 lb bag	ST
Cranberries, Dried, Individual Portion	110723	300/1.16 oz bag	Potatoes, For Processing to Frozen	100506	Bulk Pounds	ST
Mixed Berries (Blueberries, Strawberries), Cups, Frozen	110859	96/4 oz cup	Potatoes, For Processing to Dehydrated	110227	Bulk Pounds	ST
Mixed Fruit (Apples, Cherries, Cranberries, Raisins), Dried	110161	5/5 lb bag	Salsa, Low-sodium, Canned	100330	6/#10 can	RO
Mixed Fruit (Peaches, Pears, Grapes), Extra Light Syrup, Canned	100212	6/#10 can	Salsa, Low-sodium, Pouch	110186	6/106 oz pouch	RO
Oranges, Fresh	100283	34-39 lb case	Spaghetti Sauce, Low-sodium, Canned	100336	6/#10 can	RO
Orange Juice, Unsweetened, Cartons, Frozen	100277	70/4 oz carton	Spaghetti Sauce, Low-sodium, Pouch	110177	6/106 oz pouch	RO
Orange Juice, Unsweetened, Cups, Frozen	110651	96/4 oz cup	Spinach, Chopped, No Salt Added, Frozen (IQF)	110425	20 lb case	OVG
Peaches, Diced, Extra Light Syrup, Canned	100220	6/#10 can	Sweet Potatoes, Cubes, No Salt Added, Frozen	110562	6/5 lb bag	RO
Peaches, Diced, Cups, Frozen	100241	96/4.4 oz cup	Sweet Potatoes, Crinkle Cut Fries, Low-sodium, Frozen	110721	6/5 lb bag	RO
Peaches, Sliced, Frozen	100239	20 lb case	Sweet Potatoes, Light Syrup, No Salt Added, Canned	100317	6/#10 can	RO
Peaches, Sliced, Frozen	100238	12/2 lb bag	Sweet Potatoes, For Processing	100980	Bulk Pounds	RO
Peaches, Sliced, Extra Light Syrup, Canned	100219	6/#10 can	Tomato Paste, No Salt Added, Canned	100327	6/#10 can	RO
Pears, Diced, Extra Light Syrup, Canned (K)	100225	6/#10 can	Tomato Paste, For Processing	100332	2850 lb totes	RO
Pears, Halves, Extra Light Syrup, Canned	100226	6/#10 can	Tomato Sauce, Low-sodium, Canned	100334	6/#10 can	RO
Pears, Sliced, Extra Light Syrup, Canned	100224	6/#10 can	Tomato Sauce, Low-sodium, Pouch	110187	6/106 oz pouch	RO
Raisins, Unsweetened, Individual Portion	100293	144/1.33 oz unit	Tomatoes, Diced, No Salt Added, Canned	100329	6/#10 can	RO
Strawberries, Diced, Cups, Frozen	100256	96/4.5 oz cup				
Strawberries, Sliced, Frozen	100254	30 lb pail				
Strawberries, Sliced, Unsweetened, Frozen (IQF)	110860	6/5 lb bag				
Strawberries, Whole, Unsweetened, Frozen (IQF)	110846	6/5 lb bag				

**KEY:**

- Dark Green vegetable subgroup
- OTH - Other vegetable subgroup
- RO - Red/Orange vegetable subgroup
- ST - Starchy vegetable subgroup
- ADD'L - Product credits towards additional vegetables
- IQF - Individually Quick Frozen
- K- Kosher Certification Required
- Bulk Product for Further Processing

Note: USDA Foods entitlement may also be used to order a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables for weekly delivery through the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Contact your State Distributing Agency if you are interested in participating in this program.

This list is subject to change based on market availability. Please refer to the WBSM catalog which contains the most up to date list of available USDA Foods.

January 2023



USDA Foods  
in Schools

# Foods Available List – Inherently Kosher and Halal

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## **Foods on the FAL that may be inherently kosher or halal include:**

- Plant-based proteins: dried pinto beans
- Fresh produce: apples and oranges
- Grains: rice and rolled oats












# USDA Foods Database

<b>Food Category:</b>	Vegetables	<b>Material Code:</b>	100313 Corn, Whole Kernel, No Salt Added, Canned (K)
<b>Product Description:</b>	This product is U.S. Grade B whole kernel corn that is canned with no added salt. This item is available in cases containing six #10 cans.		
<b>Vendor Name</b>	Seneca Foods Corp		
<b>Brand Name</b>	Hart		
<b>GTIN</b>	00070222073779		
<b>PRODUCT INFORMATION</b>			
Serving Size	1/2 cup		
Grams per Serving	125		
Servings per Case	144		
CN Crediting	1/2 cup mealier, drained corn credits as 1/2 cup starchy vegetable		
<b>NUTRIENTS</b>			
<b>Calories (kcal)</b>	60		
<b>Total fat (g)</b>	0.5		
Saturated fat (g)	0		
Trans fat (g)	0		
<b>Cholesterol (mg)</b>	0		
<b>Sodium (mg)</b>	10		
<b>Total Carbohydrate (g)</b>	9		
Dietary Fiber (g)	1		
Total Sugar (g)	2		
Added Sugar (g)	0		
<b>Protein (g)</b>	1		
Vitamin D (mcg)	0		
Calcium (mg)	13		
Iron (mg)	0		
Potassium (mg)	125		
<b>ALLERGENS</b>			
Egg Allergen	FREE FROM		
Fish Allergen	FREE FROM		
Milk Allergen	FREE FROM		
Peanut Allergen	FREE FROM		
Sesame Allergen	FREE FROM		
Shellfish Allergen	FREE FROM		
Soy Allergen	FREE FROM		
Tree Nut Allergen	FREE FROM		
Wheat Allergen	FREE FROM		
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>			
Kosher	Orthodox Union		
Halal			
<b>INGREDIENTS</b>			
	Corn, Water		

Access the database on the FNS website



# Certifications

 <a href="http://oukosher.org/">http://oukosher.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.star-k.org/">http://www.star-k.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.ok.org/">http://www.ok.org/</a>
 <a href="http://www.kof-k.org/">http://www.kof-k.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.crcweb.org/">http://www.crcweb.org/</a>	 <a href="https://trianglek.org/">https://trianglek.org/</a>
 <a href="http://www.ifanca.org">www.ifanca.org</a>	 <a href="http://www.halalfoundation.org/">www.halalfoundation.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.ushalalcertification.com">www.ushalalcertification.com</a>
 <a href="http://www.ushalalcertification.com">www.ushalalcertification.com</a>	 <a href="http://www.ushalalcertification.com">www.ushalalcertification.com</a>	



Kosher



Halal



# Example: Certifications

## 100330 – Salsa, Low-sodium, Canned

ALLERGENS				
Egg Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Fish Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Milk Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Peanut Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Sesame Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Shellfish Allergen	NOT_INTENTIONALLY_NOR_INHERENTLY_INCLUDED	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Soy Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Tree Nut Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
Wheat Allergen	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	
CERTIFICATIONS				
Kosher	Triangle K	Orthodox Union	Orthodox Union	←
Halal			The Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America	
INGREDIENTS				
	Tomato Puree (Water, Tomato Paste), Tomatoes, Onions, Green Bell Peppers, Contains Less Than 2% of the Following: Jalapeno Peppers (Jalapeno Peppers, Distilled Vinegar, Salt, Calcium Chloride), Distilled Vinegar, Modified Food Starch (Corn), Citric Acid, Garlic Powder, Xanthan Gum, Natural Flavor, Salt, Spice	Tomato Puree, Diced Tomatoes in Tomato Juice, Jalapeno Peppers, Distilled Vinegar, Natural Flavors, Dehydrated Onions, Salt, Dehydrated Garlic, Spices	Fresh Vine-Ripened Tomatoes, Jalapeno Peppers, Distilled Vinegar, Corn Syrup, Dehydrated Onion, Salt, Natural Flavor, Spices, Garlic Powder, Bell Peppers, Modified Food Starch, and Xanthan Gum	
LAST UPDATED	8/29/2022	4/5/2022	8/29/2022	

# Kosher and Halal Procurement Priorities



Identify kosher and halal products currently available from vendors supplying to USDA Foods

Identify barriers experienced by vendors to increasing kosher and halal certified USDA Foods

Identify the feasibility of kosher and/or halal certification on new products



# Nourishing kids throughout the Edmonds School District.

@esdschoolmeals



[Jessica Reed](#)



Edmonds  
School District



# Honoring Cultural and Ethnic Diet Practices: *A Director's Experience Halal Meals*

Jennifer Hofer

Director of Food Services

Hamadeh Educational Services



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# Background & Academies

- ▶ Originally from Illinois, moved to Michigan in 1992
- ▶ Worked for Hamadeh Educational Services for 25 years
- ▶ Work at Star International Academy located in Dearborn Heights
- ▶ Star International Academy(SIA) 3 locations- Pre-K -12<sup>th</sup> in Dearborn Heights, Pre-K -8<sup>th</sup> in Canton - 2,022 students
- ▶ Universal Learning Academy (ULA) - Westland Pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup> - 758 students
- ▶ Noor International Academy (NIA) - Sterling Heights Pre-K- 6<sup>th</sup> - 182 students
- ▶ Universal Academy (UA)- Detroit- Pre-K- 12<sup>th</sup> - 722 students
- ▶ All schools are CEP
- ▶ We are feeding on average 1200 breakfasts and 3000 lunches per day

*Star International Academy, Universal Academy, Universal Learning Academy, & Noor International Academy*



# What is Halal?

- ▶ *Halal* in Arabic means permissible or allowed
- ▶ Animals must be slaughtered in a specific manner
  - ▶ Halal is not just about meat and poultry
  - ▶ Some other items to look for in foods:
    - ▶ Stocks - Soups, sauces
    - ▶ Gelatin- yogurt, marshmallow products
    - ▶ Lard- Still found in some baked goods, refried beans
    - ▶ Enzymes- Found in some chips, cheese and cheese products, processed items



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# Best Practices for Halal Kitchens (when serving both halal and non halal)

- ▶ Ensure any halal meals you are preparing do not come into contact with foods that are not halal.
- ▶ Use different utensils
- ▶ Don't place non halal and halal on same trays or pans
- ▶ Keep all halal foods separate
- ▶ If you're not 100% halal it's best to treat all the halal foods you store, prep and serve as you would foods for students with allergies, to avoid cross contamination.
- ▶ Work closely with vendors, reach out to manufacturers, read ingredients



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## Diverse Student Body

- ▶ Our schools have students from across the world. Predominately Middle East
  - ▶ Some of these countries include: Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Jordan, Sudan, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, Mexico
  - ▶ Many students are new to America
  - ▶ Having a familiar meal featured on our menus, while introducing them to new dishes.



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## Planning Menus

- ▶ Balance out meats/poultry with commodity items and use brown box and DOD to off set costs
- ▶ Balance of homemade and processed
- ▶ Halal meats/poultry price
- ▶ Feature many ethnic dishes on Mondays so we can prep on Fridays (half days)



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# Star International Academy

## October 2022 3-8 LUNCH MENU

All Meats & Poultry are **HALAL**

**COUNT DAY- OCTOBER 5th**

National School Lunch Week  
October 10th- October 14th

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

This institution is an

Milk Choices of Fat Free White, Low Fat White, Chocolate, Strawberry

2nd Choices Meals available Daily

**LUNCH PRICES**  
A la Carte Available

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

How was your lunch Today??? Drop us a note let us know!!! Suggestions are Welcome!!!



If you need any further information, Please contact:  
Mrs. Jennifer Hoffer  
at  
(313) 724-8990

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Bowtie Pasta String Cheese/Garlic Toast Broccoli/Mixed Legumes Fresh Fruits/Juice	4 Tuna Salad Subs Celery sticks/Cherry Tomato Ranch Chips Dried Fruit/Fruit Cup	5 <b>COUNT DAY</b> Pizza Carrots/Ranch/Salad Cookie Sorbet/Fruit cup	6 Bologna Sandwich Mayo Broccoli/Cauliflower/Ranch Fresh Fruits/Juice	7 <b>Half Day No Lunch Breakfast only</b>
10 <b>NATIONAL THE FAMOUS....</b> Turkey Bagel Mayo Broccoli/Ranch Sweet Potato/Waffle Fries Fresh Fruits/Juice	11 <b>SCHOOL</b> Beef Chili Corn Bread Tossed Greens/Ranch Dried Fruit/Fruit Cup	12 <b>LUNCH</b> Chicken Nuggets/Roll Fries/Baked Beans BBQ Sauce/Ketchup Sorbet/Fruit/Cup	13 <b>WEEK</b> Meat & Cheese Nachos Refried Beans/Steamed Carrots Salsa Fresh Fruits/Juice	14 <b>Half Day No Lunch Breakfast only</b>
17 Fish Nuggets/Dinner Roll Sweet Potato/Waffle Fries Tartar Sauce Fresh Fruits/Juice	18 Mac and Cheese Slice of Bread Green Beans/Carrots Dried Fruit/Fruit Cup	19 Sloppy Joes Potato Tots/Roasted Edamame Sorbet/Fruit/Cup	20 Pizza Cruncher/Pizza Black Beans & Salsa Romaine Salad Fresh Fruits/Juice	21 <b>Half Day No Lunch Breakfast only</b>
24 Kefta in Tomato Sauce Rice Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruits/Juice	25 Mini Calzone Marinara Sauce Steamed Carrots Dried Fruit/Fruit Cup	26 Chicken Shawarma Hummus/Pita Bread Fries/Ketchup Sorbet/Fruit cup	27 Lentil Soup Cheese Bread Stick Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce Fresh Fruits/Juice	28 <b>Half Day No Lunch Breakfast only</b>
31 Cheeseburger Fries/Wango Mango Ketchup Fresh Fruits/Juice	1	2	3	4 <b>Half Day No Lunch Breakfast only</b>



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## Meat/Poultry Local Procurement

- ▶ Prepare bids to go out in April and send out to local meat shops/butchers
- ▶ Specs to ensure quality and meet meal guidelines
- ▶ All ground beef must be 95% to 98% lean
- ▶ We procure chicken, turkey, ground beef, hamburger patties, hot dogs, bologna and specialty meats like shawarma, kefta and lamb
- ▶ Must provide halal certification, insurance, latest health inspection, and provide delivery to each location.



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# Cultural Menu Items

- ▶ Kefta (ground beef with spices, onion and parsley)
- ▶ Meat & Rice- served with yogurt and salad
- ▶ Chicken & Rice- served with yogurt and salad
- ▶ Hummus
- ▶ Mjudara (brown lentils and rice) served with yogurt and salad
- ▶ Lentil soup (red lentils) served with pita chips
- ▶ Fasoula (white beans), bazella (peas)- These are a tomato-based stew with beef cubes
- ▶ Lamb haneth, Shafoot, Sahaweg (Yemen cultural foods served at Universal in Detroit)
- ▶ Shawarma- Chicken and meat
- ▶ Manaeesh- Zaatar, cheese, meat (breakfast) Served weekly at each location

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# Menu items



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# Menu items



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# Menu items



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# Menu items



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# Meet The TEAMS



**Faten El-Achi and team ULA**



**Salma Koubaa and team UA**

*Star International Academy, Universal Academy, Universal Learning Academy, & Noor International Academy*



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# Meet the TEAMS



SIA Hass my team

Fatme Saleh SIA Canton

Maissa Jordan and team SIA George

*Star International Academy, Universal Academy, Universal Learning Academy, & Noor International Academy*



Thank you!

Jennifer Hofer

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# Questions & Discussion

