Adding Chocolate to Milk Doesn’t Take Away Its Nine Essential Nutrients

All milk contains a unique combination of nutrients important for growth and development. Milk is the #1 food source of three of the four nutrients of concern identified by the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans: calcium, vitamin D and potassium. And flavored milk contributes only 4% of added sugars in the diets of children 2-18 years.¹

 Reasons Why Flavored Milk Matters

1. **KIDS LOVE THE TASTE!**
   Milk provides nutrients essential for good health and kids drink more when it’s flavored.² ³

2. **NINE ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS!**
   Flavored milk contains the same nine essential nutrients as white milk - calcium, phosphorus, protein, vitamins A, D and B₁₂, pantothenic acid, riboflavin and niacin (niacin equivalents) – and is a healthful alternative to soft drinks.⁴ ⁵

3. **HELPS KIDS ACHIEVE 3 SERVINGS!**
   Drinking low-fat or fat-free white or flavored milk helps kids get the 3 cups* of milk and milk products recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.⁶ ⁷

4. **BETTER DAIRY-DIET QUALITY!**
   Children who drink flavored milk consume more of the nutrients of concern compared to non-flavored milk drinkers and flavored milk consumption is not associated with an increased BMI.⁸

5. **TOP CHOICE IN SCHOOLS!**
   Chocolate milk is the most popular milk choice in schools and kids drink less milk (and get fewer nutrients) if it’s taken away.⁹ ¹⁰

*References:

*Daily Recommendations – The 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends 3 cups of low-fat or fat-free milk and milk products for those 9 years and older, 2.5 for those 4-8 years, and 2 for those 2-3 years.