

To: Board of Education

Date: 2/24/2025

Submitted for BOE meeting date: 3/18/2025

Re: *Participation in the Healthy Food Certification program for school year 2025-26*

Purpose of the memo: *Board Action Required*

Executive Summary: The Healthy Food Certification (HFC) statute (C.G.S. Section 10-215f) requires that each local board of education or governing authority (BOE) for public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) each year must certify whether all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable meals will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). The CNS also applies to all foods offered in reimbursable snacks for the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP). Note: "Public schools" include all public schools, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies.

The district received \$9,913.00 last year for participating in this program.

BOE Action:

Motion #1: Required vote for participation in the healthy food option of HFC

Regional School District 17 BOE will participate in the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, and certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups

Motion #2: Required vote to allow food exemptions

Regional School District 17 will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Motion #3: Required Vote to allow beverage exemptions

Regional School District 17 will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Next Steps:

No Further BOE action is required.

Approved meeting minutes and formal application will be sent to the State in April.

CC:

Sarah Kaiser, BOE Administrator

Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

Sharon Shettleworth, Food Service Director