

**Elmhurst 205 Administrative Guideline  
for Snacks, Rewards, Parties, Curriculum Related Events**

**DAILY CLASSROOM SNACKS-**

The District places an emphasis on healthy snacks with a focus on fruits and vegetables. A list of acceptable snacks will be provided for those students in an allergy-aware classroom. Teachers will communicate with parents if snacks will be allowed in their classrooms.

**REWARDS-**

Teachers will not use foods or beverages as rewards for individual or small group academic performance or good behavior.

PBIS/all school rewards will adhere to these guidelines.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Non-edible birthday treats such as pencils, stickers, etc. are allowed to be distributed for birthdays. No food items shall be allowed for birthday celebrations.

**CLASSROOM AND GRADE LEVEL PARTIES-**

For class and grade level parties, one “sweet treat” is allowed to accompany healthy food options, such as fruit, vegetables, yogurt, cheese and crackers, etc. All food items must be commercially prepared. An ingredient list must be provided along with each food item. No homemade treats or snacks are allowed.

**CURRICULUM RELATED FOOD EVENTS-**

A permission slip with food items and ingredients listed must be sent to parents at least 3 school days prior to the instructional activity. Instructional programs must be developed with sensitivity to specific classroom allergies.

**PTA EVENTS-**

PTA Events need to use allergen-safe foods whenever possible at their events. Ingredient lists need to be provided with the lists of foods prior to the event and upon request during the event. Specific allergy restrictions need to be complied with for any rooms/spaces utilized. PTA sponsored lunches, which are provided at a cost to parents, must follow the USDA meal or “Smart Snack” guidelines per ISBE requirements.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Does my child's fruit have to be fresh?**

A: No, fruits and vegetables do NOT need to be fresh. We ask that they truly be fruits and vegetables such as fruit cups, applesauce, etc. and NOT items like fruit snacks. When bringing in items that are not fresh fruits or vegetables, they must adhere to any allergen-safe food list provided for your child's classroom.

**Q: Can I send a homemade treat to school with my child for a party?**

A: No, homemade snacks/treats will NOT be accepted for parties.

**Q. Can I send a treat to school with my child to share?**

A: No. Children are not permitted to share snacks or lunch items.

**Q. Why is it important to follow the new food guidelines?**

A: Our school is required to comply with Public Act 96-0349. We developed procedures that promote prevention and management of life threatening allergic reactions. While these new procedures may initially seem restrictive, we have the responsibility to keep all children safe while they are in school. Also, promoting healthy food choices is an important habit for our students to learn and practice.

# Elmhurst District #205

## Quick Reference Guide for Food at School

<p><b>#1 Lunch/Lunchroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children are permitted to bring personal lunches of their choosing.</li><li>• Children are not permitted to trade or exchange food items.</li><li>• Allergen safe tables/areas will be designated.</li></ul>	<p><b>#2 Daily Classroom Snacks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children may only bring healthy snacks</li><li>• Children are not allowed to trade or exchange food items.</li><li>• For classrooms with allergy needs present, there may be restrictions on snack foods students bring to school.</li></ul>
<p><b>#3 Classroom and Grade Level Parties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All food items must be commercially prepared.</li><li>• An ingredient list must be provided along with each food item.</li><li>• No homemade treats or snacks are allowed.</li><li>• A list of banned foods, based on specific allergies in specific classrooms, will be provided by the CSN to parent organizers of class and grade level parties.</li></ul>	<p><b>#4 Curriculum Related Food Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allergen-safe food will be substituted whenever possible.</li><li>• Parents of a student with an allergy will be informed of activities in advance and return permission slips to participate.</li><li>• Ingredient lists must be provided.</li><li>• Precautions/procedures must be followed for students with life-threatening allergies.</li><li>• Administrative approval; consultation with CSN.</li></ul>

## #5 PTA Events

- Includes events which are outside school hours.
- Allergen-safe foods will be substituted whenever possible.
- Listing of foods to be served will be provided in advance of the event.
- Ingredient lists will be provided at the event and/or upon request.
- Compliance with allergy restrictions for specific rooms/spaces must be adhered to.
- PTA events during the school day (ie. Fun Lunches) and which bear a cost to parents, must follow ISBEs meal/"Smart Snack" guidelines.