

Creative Fundraising Ideas

School fundraising activities should support healthy lifestyles. Research clearly demonstrates that good nutrition is linked to better behavior and academic performance. New laws and regulations regarding fundraising and competitive food and beverage sales are becoming almost impossible to follow.

Schools encourage healthy eating habits by avoiding the cookie and candy bar sales as well as other unhealthy food-related fundraisers. Students' lifelong eating habits are greatly influenced by the types of foods and beverages available to them. When unhealthy foods are sold "for a good cause," students may think that such foods are a healthy part of a balanced diet. However, cookies and candy bars have little nutritional value, and using them in fundraisers contributes to poor eating habits. Therefore, you might want to consider other fundraising sources other than food and beverages. The following are some great nonfood and physical activity fundraising ideas:



Items You Can Sell



- Candles
- Greeting cards
- Gift wrap, boxes, and bags
- Magazine subscriptions
- Gift items
- Coupon books
- Holiday wreaths
- Christmas trees
- Mistletoe
- Gift cards (non-food items)
- Cookbooks
- Balloons
- Decorations
- T-shirts and sweatshirts
- Calendars
- Buttons and pins
- Air fresheners
- Customized stickers
- Holiday ornaments
- Crafts
- First aid kits
- Emergency kits for cars
- School spirit gear
- Plants, flowers, poinsettias, and seeds
- Brick, stone, or tile memorials
- Temporary tattoos
- Stuffed animals
- Coffee Cups and mugs
- Pet treats, toys and accessories
- Rent a special parking space
- Foot warmers or slippers
- Scarves and stocking caps
- Spirit, seasonal, state, or US flags
- Megaphones
- Decals
- Bumper stickers
- License plate holders with school logo
- Giant coloring books
- Tickets to sporting and fine arts events
- Jewelry
- Valentine flowers
- Artwork
- School newspaper space or ads
- Stationery
- Stadium pillows
- School Frisbees
- Bath accessories and lotions
- Music CD's & DVD's
- Gift baskets (non-food items)

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Activities You Can Do

- Yard sale
- Auction or silent auction
- Carnival
- Giant game of musical chairs
- Rent-a-teen or rent-a-kid
- Guessing games
- Car wash
- Game night
- Craft show
- Magic show
- Haunted house
- Penny war
- Recycling drive
- Festivals
- Bingo night
- Healthy cooking competition
- Karaoke competition
- Chess, checkers, or other tournaments
- Treasure hunt or scavenger hunt



Fundraisers that Support Academics

- Read-a-thon
- Science fair
- Spelling bee
- Math Olympics
- Book sale
- Workshops or classes
- School planners or organizers



Fundraisers that Support the Arts

- Art show
- Concerts
- Dances
- Plays and musicals
- Talent show
- Singing telegrams
- Rent-a-band, rent-a-choir or rent-a-music-group



Fundraisers that Support Physical Activity

- Walk-a-thon
- Bike-a-thon
- Jump-rope-a-thon
- 5 mile run/walk or fun run
- Flag football, basketball or other sport tournament
- Bowling or skating night
- Sports camp or clinics