

USDA Smart Snacks in School

Effective July 1, 2014

Food Guidelines

Nutrition Standards for Foods (per item as packaged or served)

Any food sold on the school campus, during the school day must:

- Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight (have a whole grain as the first ingredient); **or**
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, vegetable, dairy food, or a protein food; **or**
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup fruit and/or vegetable;

AND

Foods must also meet all of the specific nutrient standards (with accompaniments):

Calorie limits

Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories
Snack/side items: ≤ 200 calories

Sodium limits

Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg
Snack/side items: ≤ 200 mg

Fat limits

Total fat: ≤ 35% of total calories

- Exemptions: Reduced fat cheese (including part skim mozzarella), nuts, seeds or nut/seed butters, dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added sugars or fats, whole eggs with no added fat, seafood with no added fat

Saturated fat: < 10% of total calories

- Exemptions: Reduced fat cheese (including part skim mozzarella), nuts, seeds or nut/seed butters, dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added sugars or fats, whole eggs with no added fat

Trans fat: zero grams (<0.5g)

Sugar limit

Total sugar: ≤ 35% of weight from total sugars

- Exemptions: Dried/dehydrated fruits or vegetables with no added sugars, dried fruits with nutritive sweeteners for processing and/or palatability, products consisting of only exempt dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added sugars or fats

Exemptions from meeting all nutrient standards:

- Fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables with no added ingredients except water; or in the case of fruit, packed in 100% juice, extra light, or light syrup
- Canned vegetables (no salt added/low sodium), with no added fats
- Entrée items offered as part of the lunch program or breakfast program on the day of service or the day after service. Entrée item is either (i) a combination food of M/MA and whole grain rich food; or (ii) a combination food of M/MA and F or V; or (iii) a M/MA served alone***; or (iv) a breakfast entrée item as determined by a school food authority (SP 35-2014).

***Except for yogurt, low-fat or reduced fat cheese, nuts, seeds and nut or seed butters, and meat snacks.

*** Texas allows schools to sell any foods and beverages during the school day as part of a fundraiser for up to six days per school year on each school campus. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service. Visit www.squaremeals.org for more information.**



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Food and Nutrition Division
National School Lunch Program

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www.SquareMeals.org

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Beverage Guidelines

Category	Elem	Middle	High
Plain or Carbonated Water	Any size	Any size	Any size
Low Fat Milk (1%)*, Unflavored**	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
Non Fat Milk (Skim), Flavored or Unflavored**	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
100% Fruit or Vegetable Juice (plain or carbonated) with no added sweeteners	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
100% Fruit or Vegetable Juice, Diluted with Water (plain or carbonated) with no added sweeteners	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
Calorie-Free Beverages, Flavored and/or Carbonated ≤5 calories per 8oz, or ≤10 calories per 20oz	Not permitted	Not permitted	≤20oz
Low Calorie Beverages, Flavored and/or Carbonated ≤40 calories per 8oz, or ≤60 calories per 12oz	Not permitted	Not permitted	≤12oz

**SY 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, schools may also sell flavored low-fat milk*

*** including nutritionally equivalent milk alternatives as permitted by the school meal requirements.*

Note: Caffeinated beverages are only permitted at the High School level.

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