

SCHOOL MEAL AND COMPETITIVE FOODS STANDARDS

Policy Code:

6230

All employees or other individuals who select foods or beverages to be sold to students on a school campus during the school day shall select and procure such foods and beverages in a manner consistent with the goals established by the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) in policy 6200, Goals of School Nutrition Services, and policy 6140, Student Wellness, and with all state and federal laws and regulations. Additionally, in furtherance of the board’s goals, the board establishes the following standards for school meals and other foods sold or available on school campuses.

A. SCHOOL MEAL REQUIREMENTS

Meals and snacks provided through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs must comply with all federal nutrition standards applicable to the respective program, including meal component requirements and dietary standards.

B. FOODS OTHER THAN SCHOOL MEALS

1. Definitions

a. School day

As used in this policy, “school day” means the period from midnight through 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings.

b. Competitive foods

All foods and beverages, other than meals reimbursed through the federally-funded school nutrition programs, available for sale to students on campus during the school day.

2. Foods Sold From Midnight Until the End of the Last Lunch Period

The sale of food and beverages between 12:01 a.m. and the end of the last lunch period is the responsibility of the Child Nutrition Program (CNP), and the CNP will retain the proceeds. The school principal and CNP personnel shall ensure that all competitive foods, including *a la carte* or supplemental food and beverages sold during that time period, including vended *a la carte* items, meet the federal Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

3. Foods Sold Between the Last Lunch Period and the End of the School Day

Each year, through its School Nutrition Program Annual Agreement, the board will establish accountability for the sale of competitive foods during the period between

the end of the last lunch period and the end of the school day. All foods sold during that period must comply with the federal Smart Snacks nutrition standards. This includes foods sold in vending machines (see subsection B.5, below), in school stores, and in other sales venues on the school campus.

4. Foods Sold After the School Day

Foods sold after the school day are not subject to the federal Smart Snacks standards but are subject to any school rules established pursuant to policy 6140, Student Wellness.

5. Vending Sales During the School Day

In pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, no beverage or snack vending to students is permitted outside of the School Nutrition Program.

In grades 9 through 12, all vended snack foods and beverages sold during the school day must meet the federal Smart Snacks standards and any more restrictive state requirements.

Bottled water must be available in every school that has beverage vending.

6. Fund-Raising Activities Involving Food or Beverages

All fund-raising activities that involve the sale of food or beverages to students during the school day must comply with the federal Smart Snacks standards. However, no such fund-raising activities are permitted from midnight until the end of the last lunch period. Tokens of exchange for foods or beverages to be delivered later in the day also are prohibited during this time period.

Fund-raising activities that are conducted after the school day are not required to comply with the federal Smart Snacks nutrition standards, but are subject to policy 6140, Student Wellness, and any school rules established pursuant to that policy.

7. Foods Brought from Home for School Events

Each school principal may establish standards for food and beverages brought from home to be shared for classroom events or parties during the school day or for extracurricular activities after school. The board encourages principals to establish rules that are consistent with the Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

Nothing in this policy is intended to regulate or limit foods that students bring from home as part of a bag lunch.

Legal References: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 *et seq.*; Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296, 7 C.F.R. Part 210; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751, *et seq.*

G.S. 115C-47(7), -47(22), -263, -264, -264.2, -264.5; 16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0104; State Board of Education Policy CHNU-002;

Cross References: Student Wellness (policy 6140), Goals of School Nutrition Services (policy 6200)

Adopted: January 12, 2015

Revised: August 14, 2017 and January 13, 2020; July 26, 2021 (Legal references only);
December 12, 2022; December 11, 2023 (Legal references only)