



**SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Suffield, Connecticut

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**DATE:** March 26, 2024

**TO:** Timothy Van Tasel, Superintendent

**FROM:** Eric Remington

**RE:** Healthy Food Certification for 2024-25

Connecticut General Statutes (Section 10-215f) requires Board of Educations to annually certify whether or not the school district will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold to students by July 1. The program provides \$0.10 per reimbursable lunch if the district follows the Standards. Suffield has participated in the program since 2015-2016.

Accepting the Healthy Food Certification requires the district to apply the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to all sources of food sales on school premises at all times including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias and any fundraising activities sold to students on school premises. However, there is an exemption for events which occur after school hours such as plays or athletic events.

Overall implementing this program had little impact on our school fundraising programs and provides additional revenue to the food service program. I recommend the Board certify our participation in the program for 2024-2025 with an exemption for events after school hours.

The board will need to approve the two motions as attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of HFC** This vote is required for all BOEs that participate in the NSLP. Each BOE must vote “yes” or “no” to participate in the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). The motion and BOE-approved meeting minutes must include the exact motion language below:

*Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Suffield Board of Education 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 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.*

**Vote 2: Required vote for food exemptions for BOEs choosing healthy food option of HFC** This vote is required for all BOEs that vote “yes” to participate in the healthy food option. The motion and BOE-approved meeting minutes must reflect a “yes” or “no” vote to allow food exemptions using the exact motion language below.

*The Suffield Board of Education 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.*

**Note: If the BOE votes “no” to participation in the healthy food option, a vote on whether to allow food exemptions is not required.**