



COMPETITIVE FOOD NUTRITION STANDARDS

The Competitive Food Nutrition Standards guidance in this section applies to all contracting entities (CEs) operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) in which food and/or beverage items are sold to students during the school day on a school campus that are not part of a reimbursable meal. The Competitive Food Nutrition Standards are also called Smart Snacks (SS) or the competitive rule. Please see attached Competitive Foods Nutrition Standards Chart for further information.

A competitive food is defined as: Foods and/or beverages sold to students that compete with the school's operation of the NSLP and/or SBP. This definition includes, but is not limited to, food and/or beverages sold a la carte in a meal service line, in vending machines, in school stores, or as part of fundraisers.

SCHOOL DAY

The period from the midnight before the beginning of the official instructional day to 30 minutes after the end of the official instructional day. (NOTE: The school day requirement does not include the afterschool meal and snack programs, events, or other activities as long as food service for these activities does not occur during the 30 minutes after the end of the official instructional day.)

Foods and/or Beverages Brought from Home or Food Given to Students – The Competitive Food Nutrition Standards do not restrict (1) food and/or beverages that parents provide for their own children's lunches or snacks or (2) food and/or beverages that are given to students. This includes, but is not limited to, food and/or beverages provided for birthday parties or special events.

Acting on Behalf of the Parent – It is not uncommon for a parent to designate another adult to act for the child in the place of the parent. This authority is granted for the best interest of the child and the parent. However, there are instances when it may be difficult for school staff to determine when a parent has given official authority to another adult to act on his/her behalf.

A parent, group of parents, teacher or class sponsor cannot provide a meal for students or class during the regular school day.

TIME AND PLACE RESTRICTIONS (TPR)

Elementary School

Beverages that meet the (CFNS) may be sold or provided to students anywhere on school premises throughout the school day. Competitive foods that do not meet the CFNS may not be sold or provided to students until the official school day ends. This does not pertain to food items made available by the school food service department. All Smart Snack approved beverages and snack items must comply with the nutrition standards and portion size restrictions.

Middle School

Beverages that meet CFNS may be cold or provided to students anywhere on school premises throughout the school day. Competitive foods that do not meet the CFNS may not be sold or provided to students until the official school day ends. A middle or junior high school may not serve competitive or non-competitive foods (or provide access to them through direct or indirect sales) to students anywhere on school premises from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after meal periods. This does not pertain to food items made available by the school food service department. A student must be given the opportunity to participate in school breakfast or lunch that is provided by CNS.

High School

Foods and Beverages that meet the CFNS may be sold or provided to students anywhere on school premises throughout the school day. High schools with vending machines are allowed to vend/sell non-entrée food type items that are pre-packaged and meet CFNS/SS guidelines. Competitive foods that do not meet the CFNS may not be sold or provided to students until the official school day ends. High schools may not serve competitive foods (or provide access to them through direct or indirect sales) to students during meal periods in areas where reimbursable meals are served and/or consumed. This does not pertain to food items made available by the school food service department. A student must be given the opportunity to participate in school breakfast or lunch that is provided by the CNS.

FUNDRAISERS

A fundraiser is an event that includes any activity during which currency, tokens, tickets, donation for, or other forms of payment are exchanged for the sale or purchase of a product. This includes payment that is made toward a future purchase. There is no limit on fundraisers that meet the Competitive Food Nutrition Standards (CFNS). Any food and/or beverage item that meets the standards may be sold on the school campus during the school day. CEs should define what types of food and/or beverages, if any, are allowed to be sold on campus.

SNACKS & TESTING

During mandated test dates, all grade levels may allow one nutritious snack per day under the teacher's supervision. The snack may be in the morning or afternoon but may not be at the same time as the regular meal periods for that class. Snack may be provided by teachers, parents or other groups and should be at no cost to students. The snack must be prepackaged, single-size serving, and comply with the calorie, sodium, fat, and sugar limits of the CFNS/SS guidelines.

EXEMPT DAYS

These days allow for schools and organizations to provide students foods either free of charge or through fundraising that are not CFNS/SS compliant. The District will allow foods and/or beverages that are Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) on designated dates as denoted below:

- October 31 (Halloween)
- The last District Academic Calendar day of school before winter break
- The last District Academic Calendar day of the school year