



Dodge County  
School Nutrition Program

## Dodge County Schools Wellness Policy

The mission of the Dodge County School Nutrition Program is to provide school meals that are consistent with the dietary guidelines and USDA standards for school meals and to make all foods and beverages available on campus during the school day consistent with a healthy lifestyle.

1. Dodge County School Nutrition Program complies with federal, state, and local requirements.
2. Dodge County School Nutrition Program is accessible to all students.
3. All food items **for sale** during the school day must be Smart Snack Compliant to include vending machines. All food-related fundraisers sold to students during the school day must receive prior approval by the School Nutrition Director and the Dodge County Board of Education. Food-Related Documentation of Smart Snack Compliance fundraisers will be kept on file at each school. Fundraiser Request form available at: <https://www.dodge.k12.ga.us/staff/food-related-fundraiser-request>
4. All foods **offered** on the school campus are encouraged to meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards (or state Standards) to include celebrations, classroom parties and classroom snacks. Additionally, due to the increase of food allergies and intolerances, it is recommended that parents provide non-food items for birthday celebrations instead of food items.
5. No food items should be available to students thirty minutes before or after a meal service.
6. Food or beverages within the school meal program shall not be withheld from students as a punishment.
7. Foods served in the school meal program are developmentally appropriate and encourage consumption within the time allotted.
8. A la carte food sales by the school nutrition program shall be limited to foods offered as part of the school meal and shall be served in the same portions as served in the school meal. A reimbursable meal must be purchased in order to purchase a la carte food items.
9. Sanitation deficiencies cited on local inspections are corrected accordingly, including facility deficiencies.
10. Each school kitchen has at least one person certified in food safety.
11. Drinking water is available to students throughout the day.
12. Farm to School initiatives and activities will be provided in partnership with Dodge School Nutrition Program, Dodge County Young Farmers, CTAE/programs, and other community stakeholders.

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## Smart Snacks

Any food or beverage sold to students **on the school campus during the school day** must meet federal **Smart Snacks standards**. This includes food or beverages sold in a la carte sales, vending machines, school stores, snack carts, and fundraisers. Any entity selling food to students is required to maintain records, such as nutrition labels and product specifications.

**School campus:** All areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students.

**School day:** Midnight before until 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

### **Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in Schools:**

The rule DOES NOT apply to:

- Foods sold after school hours
- Foods sold off school campus
- Foods sold exclusively to adults

### **Fundraisers**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines a fundraiser as an event or activity during which students exchange currency/tokens/tickets, etc., for the sale/purchase of a product in support of the school or school-related activities. The *Smart Snacks* regulations apply only to products intended to be consumed during the school day.

*Examples:*

- Giving away food but suggesting a donation
- Vending machine when the profits are used to support a school-sponsored club or activity such as the school band or football team
- Special treats sold during lunch hour by a student organization
- Bake sales offered to students
- Pizza sold in the classroom

### **Fundraiser Exemptions**

The Georgia Department of Education's Board approved 30 exempted fundraisers per school per school year not to exceed 3 days in length. However, there are time and place restrictions. Exempted fundraisers cannot operate anywhere on the school campus 30 minutes prior until 30 minutes after the end of breakfast and lunch meal services. Exempted fundraisers cannot be in vending machines, school stores, snack bars or a la carte sales. Fundraisers occurring in these venues must meet the *Smart Snacks* standards.

# Dodge County Schools Wellness Policy

## Dodge County Wellness Specific Goals

Dodge County is committed to the wellbeing of all students, staff and our community. In accordance with the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, this wellness policy provides the guidelines for a sustainable environment of wellness.

**Nutrition Education-** The Dodge County School Nutrition Program will be responsible for implementing age appropriate nutrition education programming in all Dodge schools, these procedures are maintained and monitored by the SNP Director. Nutrition and Health Education is integrated into the core curriculum, including math, science and language arts. Students also participate in health topics in physical education and Family and Consumer Sciences classes.

**Nutrition Promotion-** Nutrition promotion and marketing will encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. These procedures are maintained and monitored by the School Nutrition Program. Dodge County Schools will only market food and beverages that meet the Smart Snack standards and nutrition guidelines.

School staff, stakeholders and parents receive health information at the monthly Parent Support Cafe, Staff Health Fairs, and visits from Healthcare Providers.

**Physical Activity-** Physical Activity is an integral part of developing healthy lifestyles. Dodge County Physical Education Teachers will meet all state requirements in terms of physical education curriculum and will encourage recreational activities. All Dodge County teachers are encouraged to increase student's physical activity by offering physical activity breaks and active academics. The after school programs at each school include physical activity to increase recreational time.

Other school-based activities will encourage wellness by promoting physical activity and healthy food choices. Teachers and administrators will be encouraged to find alternatives to food and physical activity as methods of reward or discipline strategies for student behavior. In addition, students will be given sufficient time to consume meals in a clean dining environment. These areas are maintained and monitored by each school site's administrator.

# Dodge County Schools Wellness Policy

## Dodge County Wellness Nutrition Guidelines

Reimbursable meals will meet all federal guidelines as specified in 7 CFR Parts 210 and 220. The School Nutrition Program will be responsible for ensuring compliance with these regulations as required during the Administrative Review process. All foods sold on campus to students during school hours will meet the Smart Snacks guidelines as described in 7 CFR Parts 210 and 220. Fundraisers will be approved by the School Nutrition Director in accordance with State Board Rule 160-5-6-.01. Records of competitive foods sold by school organizations will be maintained at each school location and will be monitored by the Director of School Nutrition. Records of competitive foods sold by the School Nutrition Program will be maintained at the SNP Central Office.

Sustainability and Assessment- Dodge County School Administration Teams will support compliance and implementation of this policy. All departments will be encouraged to work together to achieve success in obtaining the aforementioned goals.

The Dodge County Schools Superintendent, Dodge County School Nutrition Director, and all School Administrators are responsible for overseeing the Dodge County Wellness Policy and ensuring that each school complies with the policy.

The Dodge County Wellness Committee will be responsible for updating the policy as needed and informing stakeholders of important information and changes to the policy. The Wellness Committee will be composed of Student Representatives, Parents, School Nutrition Staff, School Administrators, Physical Education Teachers, Nursing Staff, and Board Members. This policy, and progress towards meeting these goals, will be tracked using the Wellness Policy Progress Report Tool in which designated individuals acknowledge the extent to which particular goals have been met. Evaluations of the Wellness Policy are ongoing and documentation occurs triennially. At the time of the triennial assessment, an improvement plan is implemented (if needed) by the committee to include benchmarks of progress.

Wellness committee will meet four times a year to track and evaluate, meetings will be in January, April, July, and October. This Wellness Policy, any updates, and the annual assessments will be available to the public on the Dodge County Board of Education website at [www.dodge.k12.ga.us](http://www.dodge.k12.ga.us) under the school nutrition tab.

# Dodge County Schools Wellness Policy

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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