

Policy regarding Sharing of Food

In the Cafeteria Due to the federal regulations placed on schools who participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program funded by United States Department of Agriculture, the Sierra Blanca Independent School District has a No FOOD SHARING POLICY in all cafeterias dining rooms. This applies to food purchased in the serving line from child nutrition department and food brought from home or restaurants. Parents may provide for their children but not their friends. There are strict penalties when violations are identified. Policy Exemptions: Elementary School Classroom Snacks: Elementary classrooms may serve one nutritious snack per day in the morning or afternoon (not during regular meal periods for that class) under the teacher's guidance. The classroom snacks may be provided by the parents, teacher or other groups and should be at no cost to students. Prepackaged snacks must comply with the fat and sugar limits of the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy, and must be single-size servings. All snacks (homemade and prepackaged) may not contain any FMNVs (Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value) or consist of candy or desert type items (cookies, cakes, cupcakes, pudding, ice cream or frozen desserts, etc.). However, this does not apply to snacks students bring from home solely for their own consumption. Elementary Classroom Birthday Parties: Foods otherwise restricted by the policy are permitted in the classroom. Parties must be after the lunch period as to not spoil the child's appetite for a nutritious meal. Snacks for State Mandated Test Days: Schools and parents may provide one additional nutritious snack per day for students taking state mandated tests. As with classroom snacks, these must comply with the limits outlined in the Public School Nutrition Policy .For healthy snack ideas, see TDA's listing of "Suggestions for Nutritious Snacks" available at www.squaremeals.org. Field Trips, Athletic, UIL, Band and Other Competitions: The nutrition policy does not apply to students who leave campus for campus –approved field trips or to travel to athletic, UIL, band or other competitions. The school day is considered to have ended for these students. School activities, athletic functions, etc. that occur after normal school day are not covered by the policy. Instructional use of food in class: Students may consume food prepared in class for instructional purposes as long as they are not FMNVs (Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value). Teachers may also use foods not prepared in class for instructional purposes as long as they are not FMNVs (Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value) or consist of candy type items. The Texas Public School Nutrition Policy states these situations should be on an occasional basis, and food may not be provided or sold to other students of classes. The class or school culture heritage or enrichment event must be officially scheduled and a part of the written curriculum and included with the activities other than eating that go beyond routine teaching activities. Other: Certain exemptions are allowed for school nurses, students with special needs and up to three school wide events preapproved by campus officials. (NOTE: Federal regulations do not allow FMNVs (Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value) to be sold or given away during meal periods where reimbursable meals are served/consumed, including and exempted events). In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write U.S.D.A. Director Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866)632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339 or (800)845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and Employer.