



25555 West Durango Street. , Buckeye, Arizona 85326 | Phone (623) 925-3400 | Fax (623) 386-6063 | [BESD33.org](http://BESD33.org)  
*A community passionate about student success*

---

Dear BESD Parents and Guardians,

Last school year, BESD proactively notified families of an upcoming state-mandated change regarding food brought onto school campuses for celebrations and events. As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, those requirements are now in effect.

In response to recent legislation ([Arizona House Bill 2164](#)) and in alignment with [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) requirements, outside food may no longer be brought to campus for classroom celebrations, birthdays, rewards, or other school-sponsored events.

### **What is NOT changing?**

Students may continue to bring their own lunch and snacks from home for their personal daily consumption. This change applies only to food brought to school for sharing during celebrations, classroom parties, and similar events.

### **Why is this changing?**

This requirement is the result of **Arizona House Bill 2164** and supports:

- Compliance with state and federal nutrition guidelines
- Consistency across Arizona public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program
- Student health and wellness
- Increased safety for students with food allergies and dietary restrictions

### **Celebrating Students Still Matters**

We understand how important birthdays, achievements, and classroom milestones are to our students and families. While food-based celebrations are no longer permitted, our schools remain committed to recognizing and celebrating students in meaningful ways.

To help families prepare, we have attached a list of fun, creative, and affordable non-food celebration ideas that can still make birthdays and classroom celebrations memorable for students. We understand this may be a change for some families and appreciate your partnership and support as we implement this state requirement.

If you have questions, please contact the BESD Child Nutrition Department at (623) 925-3401 or your school administration.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, healthy, and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Kind regards,

Buckeye Elementary School District  
Child Nutrition Department



BUCKEYE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #33  
A community passionate about student success

25555 West Durango Street. , Buckeye, Arizona 85326 | Phone (623) 925-3400 | Fax (623) 386-6063 | BESD33.org  
*A community passionate about student success*

---

### **Non-Food Party Favor & Celebration Alternatives Ideas**

- Stickers or sticker sheets
- Pencils, pens, or fun erasers
- Mini notepads or bookmarks
- Glow sticks or light-up bracelets
- Bubbles
- Mini puzzles or activity books
- Stamps or stampers
- DIY craft kits (paper crowns, foam crafts, bracelets)
- Coloring pages with crayons
- "Birthday banner" students can sign
- Class-made birthday card or poster
- Special birthday hat, sash, or badge