



Arizona Healthy Schools Act

Dear HUSD families and educators,

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, Arizona public schools participating in federally funded meal programs will be required to comply with the new Arizona Healthy Schools Act (A.R.S. 15-242.01).

This new law prohibits schools from serving, selling, or allowing third parties to sell certain ultra-processed foods on school campuses during the regular school day (school day is defined as midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day). The law applies to all PK–12 public schools participating in federally funded meal programs, including school cafeterias, vending machines, classroom celebrations, incentives, fundraisers during the school day, and other food-related school activities.

What this means for families:

- Foods used for incentives, rewards, or classroom parties during the school day must comply.
- Foods sold in vending machines, school stores, and fundraisers during the school day must comply.
- It is recommended that any birthday treats and celebration snacks brought in for distribution to a class comply.
- **This new requirement does not deter students from eating home brought lunches and/or snacks containing the identified ingredients.**

Our district is committed to supporting healthy learning environments while ensuring compliance with state requirements. Any school sponsored event that provides food during the school day, using funds from PTOs/booters, school clubs, and/or the campus itself must comply with the law. We understand that this change may require adjustments for families, staff, and student organizations, and we appreciate your partnership and support.

As we prepare for implementation, we encourage families to review ingredient labels carefully, especially on popular snacks, drinks, candies, and convenience foods that may contain restricted additives.

Under the law, foods containing the following ingredients may not be served or sold during the school day:

- Potassium bromate
- Propylparaben
- Titanium dioxide

- Brominated vegetable oil (BVO)
- Yellow Dye 5
- Yellow Dye 6
- Blue Dye 1
- Blue Dye 2
- Green Dye 3
- Red Dye 3
- Red Dye 40

The attached pages provide examples of food categories and commonly known products that may contain restricted ingredients under the Arizona Healthy Schools Act.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Respectfully,

Higley Unified School District

Common Food Categories Potentially Impacted by the Arizona Healthy Schools Act

The following examples often contain one or more ingredients restricted under the Arizona Healthy Schools Act. Product formulas may change, so families are encouraged to review ingredient labels carefully.

Examples of Prohibited Foods May Include:

- Flavored chips
- Hot/spicy snack foods
- Cheese-flavored crackers
- Fruity candies
- Sour candies
- Jelly beans
- Hard candies
- Taffy products
- Candy-coated chocolates
- Fruit-flavored chew candies
- Fruit rolls
- Gummy fruit products
- Frosted snack cakes
- Colored bakery treats
- Frosted toaster pastries
- Confetti or rainbow-themed desserts
- Frosted cookies
- Iced brownies and dessert bars
- Colored cereals
- Marshmallow cereals
- Fruit-flavored cereals
- Frosted cereals with colored pieces
- Ice pops
- Slushies
- Frozen character treats
- Rainbow frozen desserts
- Colored frozen novelties

- Sports drinks
- Fruit punches
- Colored juice drinks
- Soft drinks/sodas

Foods Schools May Encourage as Alternatives:

- Plain popcorn
- Pretzels
- Pirate's Booty original
- SkinnyPop
- Fresh fruit
- String cheese
- Applesauce cups
- MadeGood snacks
- Simple Mills crackers
- Dye-free fruit snacks
- Annie's organic products
- Nature's Bakery fig bars
- Water, milk, and 100% juice

Please note: This list is intended as a general reference and does not represent an official approved or prohibited foods list. Product ingredients and formulas may change.