

Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold In Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Q: Do the items sold in staff vending machines need to comply with the nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools?**

A: If the vending machines are not accessible to students, then the items sold would not be required to comply with the nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools. If the vending machines are accessible to students, then the items sold would need to comply with the nutrition standards.

- 2. Q: Do the standards apply to foods sold at events that occur at night?**

A: Foods and beverages sold outside of the defined school day (the definition of school day is the period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day) are not required to meet the nutrition standards. To illustrate, if there is a football game at 7:30 pm and will conclude by 10:00 pm, food items sold at this event would not be required to comply with the nutrition standards.

- 3. Q: Do these nutrition standards apply to afterschool snack programs?**

A: The nutrition standards are applicable during the school day, which is defined as the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day. If such programs are operated in the school during the defined school day, or if afterschool snacks or meals are provided within the 30 minutes window after the end of the instructional day, afterschool snacks and any other food available for sale to students at that time must comply with the nutrition standards.

- 4. Q: Can schools sell cookie dough?**

A: Yes, if not sold during the defined school day. The nutrition standards do not apply to foods sold during non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus.

- 5. Q: Do the standards apply to food items provided to students such as pizza parties or cupcakes?**

A: Not at this time. The nutrition standards apply to foods sold to students during the defined school day. If such foods are provided to the students free of charge, the nutrition standards do not apply. This could change if the wellness policy regulations are amended.

- 6. Q: Can we sell items that meet the nutrition standards during meal times? For example, can we sell fruit and yogurt during breakfast?**

A: Yes. Items that meet the nutrition standards can be sold but must be sold in locations other than dining, serving, and kitchen areas.

7. Q: Can a parent buy an item that does not meet the nutrition standards at school and give it to the student?

A: The nutrition standards apply when foods are sold or available to be sold to students during the defined school day, on the school campus.

8. Q: Can we sell students raffle ticket or tokens and students can exchange the tickets or tokens for foods that do not meet the nutrition standards?

A: No. USDA considers a fundraiser to be an event that includes any activities during which currency/tokens/tickets, etc. are exchanged for the sale/purchase of a product.

9. Q: Can we have salt shakers in the teachers' lounge and/or cafeteria?

A: If the teachers' lounge is not accessible to students, then salt can be available to school staff. If the teachers' lounge is accessible to students, then salt cannot be available. Salt cannot be available in the cafeterias.

10. Q: Our school has a back pack program where we send food home with students for the weekend. Do these items need to meet the nutrition standards?

A: No. At this time, the nutrition standards apply only to foods sold to students during the school day.

11. Q: How do we know if an item meets the nutrition requirements?

A: The following website contains a product calculator which will show you if your product meets the nutrition standards:

https://schools.healthiergeneration.org/focus_areas/snacks_and_beverages/smart_snacks/product_calculator/

12. Q: How do we find products that meet the standards?

A: The following website has resources to locate products that meet the nutrition standards:

https://schools.healthiergeneration.org/resources_tools/school_meals/product_navigator/

13. Q: How can we generate revenue for our school programs?

A: The following website provides resources for generating revenue for school programs while not undermining a healthy school environment:

https://schools.healthiergeneration.org/focus_areas/snacks_and_beverages/fundraisers/

14. Q: Who is responsible for policing these nutrition standards?

A: All schools are subject to federal audits therefore must ensure compliance with the nutrition standards. One step for ensuring compliance is providing school vendors with

nutrition information and requiring them to provide written documentation of compliance including nutrition label(s). The Alliance for a Healthier Generation product calculator (https://schools.healthiergeneration.org/focus_areas/snacks_and_beverages/smart_snacks/product_calculator/) is a tool that can be utilized to verify produce compliance.

15. Q: What happens if the nutrition standards are not followed?

A: As a part of District Administrative Rule EEE-R Wellness Program, the nutrition standards must be followed.

16. Q: How will this information be communicated to parents?

A: Principals are encouraged to share the information on their school website. Information will also be sent from CCSD FNS via end of year student flyers.

17. Q: How will this information be communicated to vendors?

A: Each school is responsible for communicating the nutrition standards to their vendor(s).

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