

AR EFE-R Competitive Food Sales/Vending Machines

Issued 3/19

In an effort to promote student wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and provide assurance that school meals and snacks meet the minimum federal standards, the district implements this rule governing the sale of competitive foods within the district.

“Competitive foods” means all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day other than food sold under the breakfast, lunch, snack, and supper programs. The school day is the period from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day. Food available for sale to students at schools that participate in the extended day programs must comply with the Smart Snacks requirements.

The principal is responsible for approving all foods served in the canteen and will maintain proof that all foods were checked and approved through the USDA calculator on the SNS website. Printed evidence from the USDA calculator must be maintained in writing. Principals will certify in writing annually that they are in compliance with all USDA requirements per this policy and administrative rule. The district will form a canteen sales group with representatives from each middle and high school operating canteen and/or vending programs. The canteen sales group will include at least two executive director of schools, student nutrition services director or designee, financial services representative, and two school principals. The canteen group will meet twice a year for professional development and to ensure program compliance district-wide.

Student nutrition services will provide annual training twice a year for the canteen sales group and/or designated individuals over school canteens.

This rule applies to all properties under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the day. The venues include, but are not limited to, á la carte in the cafeteria, school stores, canteens, snack bars, and vending machines.

The competitive food standards do not apply under the following situations:

- food sold during non-school hours, weekends, or off-campus fundraising events (e.g. athletic events, or school concerts)
- food sold for off-campus consumption (e.g. cookie dough or frozen pizza)
- food sold exclusively to adults who are not students
- food given to students at no charge without suggesting a donation
- food brought from home by students for personal consumption
- foods donated for classroom celebrations
- emergency medical situations

Schools will not offer or sell foods of minimal nutritional value during the school day. Foods sold in vending machines and canteens must meet be Smart Snack compliant. Foods of minimal nutritional value are those which contribute less than five percent of the Reference Daily Intake (RDI) for any of one of several key nutrients and are grouped into the following four categories:

- soda water (which includes all carbonated beverages)
- water ices
- chewing gum
- certain candies

Use of accompaniments is limited when competitive food is sold to students in school. The accompaniment must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item served and meet all proposed standards. Examples include, but are not limited to, butter, cream cheese, syrup, ketchup, mustard, and salad dressing.

Any entrée item offered as part of the breakfast or lunch program is exempt from all competitive food standards if it is sold as a competitive food on the day of service or the day after service in the breakfast or lunch program. Exempt entrées that are sold as competitive foods must be offered in the same or smaller portion sizes as the breakfast or lunch program with the same accompaniments.

Schools may use the Smart Snacks calculator provided by the USDA. A link to the calculator may also be found on the district's student nutrition services website. The calculator will determine if the food item or beverage to be sold meets the USDA guidelines for Smart Snacks.

Fundraisers

All foods that meet the competitive food standards may be sold at fundraisers on the school campus during school hours. Food or beverages that do not meet the standards may only be sold in occasional fundraisers if they are not sold in competition with school meals in the food serving area during the meal programs. This rule governs the sale of food using payment options including, but not limited to, money, tokens, and coupons, or where a donation is expected or suggested.

The number of fundraisers exempt from the nutrition requirements will be determined by the South Carolina State Board of Education. The exemptions do not apply to food sold in canteens, vending machines, or school stores that regularly sell food throughout the school year. Food sold by culinary arts programs or other curriculum offerings do not qualify for an exemption.

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Richland County School District One