

B - Business

Competitive Food Sales and Vending Machines

Objective:

The district is committed to promoting a healthy school environment by regulating the sale of competitive foods and beverages. All competitive food sales must comply with federal and state nutrition guidelines to support student well-being.

1. Competitive Foods:

Competitive foods are defined as foods sold or served during the school day that compete with the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. Competitive food sales may be approved by the principal if:

- All income from sales benefits either the nonprofit school food service or a district-approved school or student organization.
- The school fosters a positive environment that encourages healthy food choices.
- Nutrition standards for competitive foods must meet or exceed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines.

2. Fundraisers:

While the district encourages non-food fundraisers, student organizations may sell food for fundraising purposes if it complies with Smart Snacks standards. For foods that do not meet Smart Snack guidelines, a special exemption waiver must be filed with the Arizona Department of Education's Health and Nutrition Services, and nutrition labels must be provided.

3. Celebrations and Rewards:

In accordance with Arizona law (A.R.S. 15-242), all food and beverages served to students in grades K-8 must meet the USDA's Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines. Foods that do not meet these standards may be offered but not sold, for class celebrations or as rewards, and such events should occur infrequently.

4. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools:

Any food or beverage marketing on school campuses must meet the USDA Smart Snacks guidelines. Marketing includes any oral, written, or graphic promotions aimed at encouraging the purchase of food or beverages. All products marketed within the school must comply with these standards.

5. Vending Machines:

Vending machines on school campuses must only dispense foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines set forth by the Arizona Department of Education and the USDA. Vending machine operations should not compete with the district's food service program.

Legal References:

- Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 15-242 (Nutrition Standards)
- The National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)
- The Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)