

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if a snack is compliant?

There are a number of resource lists of smart snack compliant snacks. Take a look at the website for lists of ideas [HERE](#). Another great resource is the Smart Snack Calculator produced by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) This is the only tool verified by the USDA as accurate for assessing compliance with the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Click [HERE](#) for this easy to use tool.

Do we have to follow these new policies? Is there any way we are exempt from following the policy?

Yes, all schools within the district must follow this new policy and no school within the district is exempt. The Wellness Policy follows USDA requirements as a participating school in the federal school food program.

Can we sell food during the day?

Yes, however, any food or beverage that is sold to students during the school day, other than foods provided as part of the school meal programs, must meet the Smart Snacks Standards. These include a la carte items sold in the cafeteria and foods sold in school stores, snack bars, and vending machines. Foods and beverages sold during fundraisers also need to meet the Smart Snack Standards unless these items are not intended for consumption during the school day.

Is the school lunch program compliant with the smart snacks?

All school meals including breakfast, lunch, and after school snacks follow federal, state and local statutes and regulations. These regulations differ from the Smart Snacks guidelines in that the meal is considered as a whole versus individual meal components when analyzing the nutrient content. All foods that are sold a la carte during meal service are required to be compliant with the district policy and USDA Smart Snack Standards.

What about look alike products?

Branded products served/sold at school may or may not be compliant when bought at a retail store. Many branded snack products are reconfigured by food manufacturers to be compliant with the Smart Snack guidelines **but are only available through food service outlets**. Retail products “look like” the same product but may contain different ingredients (less expensive, less healthy) or are prepared differently. Look at the label or use the



Smart Snacks Calculator to make sure that the product is compliant or contact the Food and Nutrition Services Department to purchase your snacks.