

Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act, Competitive Foods on School Campus: Frequently Asked Questions

February 6, 2015

Why did the USDA set such strict nutrition standards this year?

Children's health is at a critical point. In Florida, 18-20% of children are obese. Seventy four percent of children aged 6-11 years do not get enough fruits or vegetables. They are missing out on essential nutrients that protect their health. After 5th grade, or elementary school, only 40% of children do not get enough calcium for strong bone growth.

The federal nutrition program is prioritized in schools so that children get balanced meals with high quality proteins, fruits and vegetables and whole grains and milk. USDA's intent is to ensure there is no competition within the school and children are encouraged to participate in the meals program. Twenty-six percent of Orange County's children are food insecure, meaning they do not get three meals a day. Approximately 65% of students enrolled in the OCPS schools are eligible for free or reduced meals. For many students, the school meals provide the best nutrition of their day.

When do the Nutrition Standards apply to food on campus?

Nutrition Standards apply during the school day, defined as midnight to 30 minutes after the last bell of the school day. Activities with food and beverage after the 30 minutes are not affected.

What about food donated to the school for students?

All food offered to students for sale or for donations during the school day must meet the OCPS Wellness Policy. These items may not be offered to students until 30 minutes past the last lunch period, and must meet the Wellness Policy reference for foods "from the outside" with labeling requirements, registration in the school's food service manager's office and nutrition standards.

How can the school based organizations do a fundraiser for food or beverages on school campus?

- 1.) These standards address only food and beverage fundraisers operating during the school day. Fundraisers held 30 minutes after the last bell of the school day are not held to the nutrition standards.
- 2.) Frequent Fundraisers that meet the nutrition standards – If the items sold are food or beverages then the sales can only begin 30 minutes after the last scheduled period, unless operated through the food service program.
- 3.) Infrequent Fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition standards are allowed to start 30 minutes after the last lunch period. These fundraisers are approved and documented by the Healthy School Team and School Administration. There can be multiple fundraisers on the same day. The allowed days during the school year for Infrequent Fundraisers are as follows:
 - High Schools – 15 days
 - Middle Schools – 10 days
 - Elementary Schools – 5 days
- 4.) Food based fundraisers may be implemented through the school's food service program called the "Cooperative Cart" and operate during meal periods.
- 5.) Coffee sales may occur anytime during the day. These beverages do need to meet the nutrition standards for flavored beverages or milk and flavored beverages. See Eat Smart Nutrition Standards.

What is a Cooperative Cart?

This is a food cart that school based organizations can check out from the food service program. The organization can select five items such as sandwiches, wraps, small bags of chips, and/or beverages. The food service charges the organization for the food and labor costs and sets the price they can charge the students.

Is a school store included in these standards?

The Florida Department of Agriculture has defined the school stores and vending machines as “not school-sponsored fundraisers.” All food or beverages sold are required to meet the nutrition standards if sold during the school day.