

State Agency Fundraiser Elections and Exemptions for Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards

This information applies only to sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) that do not participate in Connecticut's [Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\)](#) under [Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes](#). Public schools that participate in HFC have different requirements and must follow the state HFC fundraiser requirements outlined in the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) resource, [Requirements for Food and Beverage Fundraisers in HFC Public Schools](#).



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Smart Snacks Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Snacks nutrition standards were established by the final rule, [National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as Required by the HHSFKA of 2010](#). Effective July 1, 2014, these standards apply to all competitive foods sold on school campus during the school day in public schools, private schools, and residential child care institutions (RCCIs) that participate in the NSLP and SBP.

- Competitive foods are all foods and beverages available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day, separately from reimbursable meals and snacks in the USDA's [Child Nutrition Programs](#) (CNP's).
- The school campus is all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.
- The school day is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

For information on the Smart Snacks requirements, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Summary of Smart Snacks Standards](#). For guidance on the additional federal and state laws that apply to competitive foods in schools, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Overview of Federal and State Laws for Competitive Foods in Connecticut Public Schools, Private Schools, and Residential Child Care Institutions](#), and visit the CSDE's [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) webpage.

USDA Fundraiser Exemptions

The USDA recognizes that fundraisers play a vital role in providing additional sources of income to school districts to support extracurricular activities, such as sports, drama and music, that contribute to students' education, physical health, and overall well-being. The Smart Snacks requirements do not apply to fundraisers that do not sell food or that take place outside of school, e.g., cookie dough or frozen pizza sales. There are no limits on the number of fundraisers that may be held when all fundraiser foods meet the Smart Snacks requirements. The Smart Snacks standards do not apply to after-hours fundraisers or after-hours concessions that operate during athletic events, school concerts or on weekends.

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Connecticut Fundraiser Exemption Policy

States have the authority to set their own policy relating to fundraisers that do not meet the USDA's criteria, i.e., "exempt fundraisers." **Connecticut does not allow any exemptions for fundraisers under the Smart Snacks regulation.** Therefore, all fundraisers sold during the school day must meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

Additional Fundraiser Requirements

In addition to complying with Smart Snacks, fundraisers must also comply with all applicable federal and state laws. Additional state requirements may apply based on the types of foods and beverages sold and the time and location of the fundraiser. For more information on the fundraiser requirements under Smart Snacks, refer to the CSDE's resources, [*Requirements for Food and Beverage Fundraisers in Non-HFC Public Schools*](#) and [*Requirements for Food and Beverage Fundraisers in Private Schools and Residential Child Care Institutions*](#).

Resources

[A Guide to Smart Snacks in School](#) (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-smart-snacks-school>

[Allowable Beverages in Connecticut Public Schools](#) (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/compfoods/allowable_beverages_public_schools.pdf

[Best Practices for Healthy School Fundraisers](#) (USDA):

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/tn/best-practices-healthy-school-fundraisers>

[Beverage Requirements](#) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/beverage-requirements>

[Competitive Foods in Schools](#) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/competitive-foods>

[List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/list-of-acceptable-foods-and-beverages>

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[Overview of Federal and State Laws for Competitive Foods in Connecticut Public Schools, Private Schools, and Residential Child Care Institutions](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/compfoods/overview_federal_state_laws_competitive_foods.pdf) (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/compfoods/overview_federal_state_laws_competitive_foods.pdf

[Requirements for Food and Beverage Fundraisers in Non-HFC Public Schools](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/fundraiser_requirements_nonhfc.pdf) (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/fundraiser_requirements_nonhfc.pdf

[Requirements for Food and Beverage Fundraisers in Private Schools and Residential Child Care Institutions](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/fundraiser_requirements_private_rcci.pdf) (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/fundraiser_requirements_private_rcci.pdf

[Smart Snacks – Fundraisers and Foods Not Intended for Consumption at School](https://www.fna.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards/smartsnacks/fundraisers) (USDA website):

<https://www.fna.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards/smartsnacks/fundraisers>

[Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards](https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/smart-snacks-nutrition-standards) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/smart-snacks-nutrition-standards>

[Smart Snacks in Schools](https://www.fna.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards/smartsnacks) (USDA webpage):

<https://www.fna.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards/smartsnacks>

[Summary of Smart Snacks Standards](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/compfoods/summary_smart_snacks_nutrition_standards.pdf) (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/compfoods/summary_smart_snacks_nutrition_standards.pdf

[USDA Final Rule: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as Required by the HHFKA of 2010](https://www.fna.usda.gov/cn/fr-072916d)

<https://www.fna.usda.gov/cn/fr-072916d>

[USDA Memo SP 36-2014: Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards and Exempt Fundraisers](https://www.fna.usda.gov/cn/smart-snacks-nutrition-standards-and-exempt-fundraisers)

<https://www.fna.usda.gov/cn/smart-snacks-nutrition-standards-and-exempt-fundraisers>

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For more information, visit the CSDE's [Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards](#) webpage and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpage or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/compfoods/state_agency_fundraiser_elections_smart_snacks.

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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