

Requirements for Foods and Beverages in Culinary Programs in HFC Public Schools

This document summarizes the federal and state laws for selling and giving foods and beverages to students from culinary programs in Connecticut public schools that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and choose to implement the healthy food option of [Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\)](#) under [Section 10-215f](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.). Connecticut public schools include all local and regional school districts, the regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies.



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Overview of Federal and State Laws

All foods available for sale to students on school premises must comply with the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) (CNS). All beverages available for sale to students on school premises must comply with the state beverage statute ([C.G.S. Section 10-221q](#)). Beverages available for sale to students on school premises during the school day must also comply with the USDA's Smart Snacks nutrition standards ([81 FR 50131](#)).

Only the Smart Snacks beverage standards apply to HFC public schools. The food standards do not apply because the state HFC statute requires that foods comply with the stricter CNS, which supersedes the Smart Snacks food standards. For a comparison of the CNS and Smart Snacks, refer to the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) chart, [Comparison of the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and the USDA's Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards](#).

In addition to the nutrition standards for foods and beverages, culinary programs must also comply with the following federal and state laws for:

- **restrictions for selling and giving foods and beverages to students**, including the state statute requiring the sale of nutritious and low-fat foods ([C.G.S. Section 10-221p](#)); the state regulation that restricts selling and giving candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students ([Section 10-215b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](#)); and the local educational agency's (LEA) school wellness policy, as required by the USDA's school wellness policy legislation (Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Section 4 of [Public Law 108-265](#)) and the [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#)); and
- **accrual of income from selling foods and beverages to students**, i.e., the state regulation that restricts income accrual ([Section 10-215b-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](#)).

These laws determine what and when foods and beverages may be sold or given to students on school premises, and where the income must accrue. The definitions below apply to these requirements.

- "Sales" means the exchange of a determined amount of money or its equivalent (such as tickets, coupons, tokens, and similar items) for foods and beverages. Sales also include programs and activities that charge a fee that includes the cost of foods and beverages

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provided to students, and activities that suggest a student donation in exchange for foods and beverages. Under Connecticut's statutes and regulations for competitive foods, sales also include tickets and similar items that are given to students (such as food rewards) and can be exchanged for foods and beverages.

- “Giving” means that foods and beverages are provided free of any charge, contribution, or suggested donations; and without the exchange of tickets, coupons, tokens, and similar items to obtain foods and beverages.
- “School premises” include all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, CTECS, or the governing authority district or school.

For guidance on how the federal and state laws apply to different sources of competitive foods in HFC public schools, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools](#) and [Summary Chart: Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools](#), and visit the “[HFC Resources](#)” section of the CSDE's HFC webpage. Training on the requirements for competitive foods in HFC public schools is available in the CSDE's [Complying with Healthy Food Certification](#) training program.

The federal and state nutrition standards do not apply to the culinary program curriculum, i.e., foods and beverages prepared by students during learning activities intended to meet curriculum content standards. For more information on the requirements for culinary programs, refer to the CSDE's [Operational Memorandum No. 31-14: Federal and State Requirements for Culinary Education Programs \(Smart Snacks versus Connecticut Nutrition Standards\)](#).

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When the Laws Apply

When the laws for competitive foods differ, the stricter requirements apply. Some laws apply during the school day, while others apply at all times or while Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) are operating.

- The “school day” is the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. For example, if school ends at 3:00 p.m., the school day is from midnight to 3:30 p.m. Summer school programs operated by the BOE on school premises are part of the regular school day.
- The CNPs include the [NSLP](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) of the NSLP, [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) of the NSLP, [Special Milk Program \(SMP\)](#), [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\)](#), [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#) [At-risk Afterschool Meals](#) operated in schools, and [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#) operated in schools.

The state statutes and competitive foods regulations apply regardless of when students will receive or consume foods and beverages. This includes orders for foods that will be distributed later and purchases of precooked products (such as frozen pies and cookie dough) and bulk products that contain multiple servings per package (such as boxes of candy bars or cookies and bags of popcorn kernels or gourmet coffee beans). For more information (refer to “[Timing of Distribution and Consumption](#)” in this document.



Table 1 summarizes the three categories of laws that apply to culinary programs in HFC public schools, when they apply, which foods and beverages they regulate, and whether they apply to selling or giving foods and beverages to students. These categories include: 1) nutrition standards for foods and beverages; 2) restrictions for selling and giving foods and beverages to students; and 3) accrual of income from sales of foods and beverages to students.

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Table 1. Summary of laws that apply to culinary programs in HFC public schools				
Law	Applies to	When applies	Applies to	
			Selling	Giving
Category 1: Nutrition standards for foods and beverages				
State: C.G.S. Section 10-215c : Nutrition standards for food that is not part of lunch or breakfast program (Connecticut Nutrition Standards)	All foods available for sale to students on school premises separately from reimbursable meals and all foods served in the ASP (refer to “ Allowable Foods ” in this document).	At all times. Culinary programs are not eligible for food exemptions because they do not meet the definition of an event. All foods available for sale to students from culinary programs must always comply with the CNS.	Yes	No
State: C.G.S. Section 10-221q : Sale of beverages	All beverages available for sale to students on school premises (refer to “ Allowable Beverages ” in this document).	At all times. Culinary programs are not eligible for beverage exemptions because they do not meet the definition of an event. All beverages available for sale to students from culinary programs must always comply with the state beverage statute.	Yes	No



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Table 1. Summary of laws that apply to culinary programs in HFC public schools				
Law	Applies to	When applies	Applies to	
			Selling	Giving
Category 1: Nutrition standards for foods and beverages, <i>continued</i>				
Federal: Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards (81 FR 50131)	All foods and beverages available for sale to students on school premises, separately from reimbursable meals and ASP snacks through the CNPs. Note: Only the Smart Snacks beverage standards apply to HFC public schools (refer to “ Allowable Beverages ” in this document). The food standards do not apply because the state HFC statute requires compliance with the stricter CNS.	During the school day.	Yes	No
Federal: School Wellness Policy (Public Law 108-265) and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 Final Rule 81 FR 50151	Locally determined nutrition standards and guidelines for all foods and beverages on school premises available for sale to students or provided to students free of charge (refer to “ USDA School Wellness Policy (SWP) Requirements ” in this document).	During the school day.	Yes	Yes

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Table 1. Summary of laws that apply to culinary programs in HFC public schools				
Law	Applies to	When applies	Applies to	
			Selling	Giving
Category 2: Restrictions for selling and giving foods and beverages to students				
State: C.G.S. Section 10-221p: Nutritious and low-fat foods available for sale	All sales of foods to students on school premises (refer to “State Statute Requiring Nutritious and Low-fat Foods” in this document).	During the school day.	Yes	No
State: Section 10-215b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: Competitive foods (candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks)	Selling and giving candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students on school premises while any CNPs are operating (refer to “Section 10-215b-1: Restrictions for candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks” in this document).	From 30 minutes before up through 30 minutes after the operation of any CNPs, including during and after the school day.	Yes	Yes
Category 3: Accrual of income from sales of foods and beverages to students				
State: Section 10-215b-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: Accrual of Income	Accrual of income from all sales of foods and beverages to students on school premises while any CNPs are operating (refer to “Section 10-215b-23: Accrual of income” in this document).	From 30 minutes before up through 30 minutes after the operation of any CNPs, including during and after the school day.	Yes	No

Allowable Foods

Allowable foods include commercial products and foods made from scratch that comply with the following CNS requirements: 1) the food must meet at least one general standard; and 2) the serving with its accompaniments (such as butter, cream cheese, salad dressing, and condiments) must meet the specific nutrition standards for the applicable CNS food category. Some examples of foods with accompaniments include bagels with cream cheese, muffins with butter, french fries with ketchup, pancakes with syrup, tortilla chips with salsa, and chicken nuggets with dipping sauce.



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Culinary programs can never sell foods that do not comply with the CNS. They do not meet the definition of an event and are not eligible for food exemptions under the state HFC statute.

For specific information on the CNS requirements, refer to the CSDE's [Summary of Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) and visit the CSDE's [CNS](#) webpage. Training is available in “Module 3: Connecticut Nutrition Standards” and “Module 4: Evaluating Foods for CNS Compliance” of the CSDE's [Complying with Healthy Food Certification](#) training program.

Commercial products

The CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages webpage](#) identifies commercial food products that comply with the CNS. For more information on allowable commercial food products, refer to the CSDE's resources, [How to Evaluate Commercial Food Products for Compliance with the Summary of Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) and [Submitting Food and Beverage Products for Approval](#), and visit the “[Commercially Prepared Foods](#)” section of the CSDE's CNS webpage.

Foods made from scratch

Culinary programs must evaluate all foods made from scratch for CNS compliance **before** they are sold a la carte to students. The following documentation is required for all foods in the two categories of foods made from scratch below: 1) a standardized recipe with the nutrition information per serving (including any accompaniments served with the food); and 2) the appropriate completed CNS worksheet indicating that the standardized recipe's serving with its accompaniments complies with the CNS (refer to the “[CNS Worksheets](#)” section of the CSDE's CNS webpage).

- **Category 1: foods prepared from ingredients using a standardized recipe:** Examples include entrees sold only a la carte (i.e., not as part of reimbursable NSLP and SBP meals) such as pizza, chef's salad, lasagna, and sandwiches; soups; cooked grains (such as rice or pasta) with added salt and fat, e.g., oil, margarine, or butter; cooked vegetables with added salt and fat; salad with dressing; fruit smoothies; and baked goods like muffins and cookies.
- **Category 2: commercial foods with ingredients added after purchasing:** Examples include popping popcorn kernels in oil and adding salt; making muffins from a mix and adding butter and eggs; and adding sprinkles to commercial frozen cookie dough. **Note:** Adding ingredients to a commercial product changes its nutrition information. To determine CNS compliance, these foods require a



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standardized recipe that indicates the amount of each ingredient and the nutrition information per serving.

Steps for evaluating foods made from scratch

Culinary programs must complete the steps below to document that all a la carte foods made from scratch comply with the CNS. Foods without this documentation cannot be sold to students.

1. **Determine the nutrition information per serving:** Foods made from scratch must have an accurate standardized recipe that indicates the calories, fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium, and sugars per serving, including any accompaniments served with the food. If this nutrition information is missing, the selling entity must conduct a nutrient analysis using a nutrient analysis software program, or a nutrient analysis database and the CSDE's [CNS Worksheet 9: Nutrient Analysis of Recipes](#). For guidance on developing and using standardized recipes, visit the "[Standardized Recipes](#)" section of the CSDE's Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage.



2. **Verify that the nutrition information per serving complies with the CNS:** Enter the nutrition information for the standardized recipe's serving with its accompaniments into the CNS worksheet for the applicable CNS food category (refer to the "[CNS Worksheets](#)" section of the CSDE's CNS webpage). The CNS worksheets compare the standardized recipe's nutrition information per serving with the CNS and indicate if the serving complies.
3. **Maintain documentation of CNS compliance on file:** Maintain each standardized recipe and its completed CNS worksheet for the annual HFC documentation (due November 30 of each year) and the CSDE's Administrative Review of the school nutrition programs. For easy access, the CSDE recommends storing this information electronically in a computer folder.

For additional guidance on foods made from scratch, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Guidance on Evaluating Recipes for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) and [How to Evaluate Foods Made from Scratch for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#), and visit the "[Foods Made from Scratch](#)" section of the CSDE's CNS webpage.

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Allowable Beverages

Allowable beverages comply with the state beverage statute (C.G.S. Section 10-221q) and any stricter Smart Snacks requirements. The state beverage statute applies to all beverages available for sale to students on school premises at all times, including beverages sold as part of and separately from reimbursable meals and ASP snacks. Smart Snacks applies to all beverages sold separately from reimbursable meals to students on school premises during the school day.

Five categories of beverages are allowed for sale to students in public schools, including: 1) milk; 2) 100 percent juice; 3) nondairy milk substitutes; 4) beverages containing only water and juice; and 5) water. Each category must meet the specific nutrition requirements of the federal and state beverage standards. For information on these requirements, refer to the CSDE's [Allowable Beverages in Connecticut Public Schools](#) and visit the CSDE's [Beverage Requirements](#) webpage.

Culinary programs can never sell beverages that do not comply with the state beverage statute, such as soda, coffee, tea, sports drinks, hot chocolate, sweetened water, and juice drinks that are not 100 percent juice. Culinary programs do not meet the definition of an event and are not eligible for beverage exemptions under the state beverage statute.

The CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage identifies commercial beverage products that comply with the state beverage statute and Smart Snacks.



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Strategies to Ensure Compliance

To receive HFC funding, districts must comply with the CNS and HFC requirements. Districts are responsible for developing and implementing procedures to ensure that all culinary programs comply with these requirements.

The most common noncompliance issues for foods made from scratch include: 1) not having an accurate standardized recipe that provides the required nutrition information; and 2) not using the appropriate CNS worksheet to document that the standardized recipe's serving with its accompaniments complies with the CNS. The most common noncompliance issues for commercial products include: 1) not verifying that the food or beverage is included on the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage; and 2) not checking deliveries to ensure that vendors do not substitute noncompliant products.

To prevent these noncompliance issues, culinary programs must implement the strategies below.

- 1. Evaluate all foods made from scratch before selling to students:** Determine that all foods made from scratch comply with the CNS (refer to "[Foods made from scratch](#)" in this document). The required documentation includes: 1) an accurate standardized recipe that indicates the calories, fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium, and sugars per serving; and 2) the completed applicable CNS worksheet documenting that the standardized recipe's serving with its accompaniments complies with the CNS (refer to the "[CNS Worksheets](#)" section of the CSDE's CNS webpage). Foods without this documentation cannot be sold to students.
- 2. Evaluate all commercial products before purchasing:** Before purchasing any commercial products, determine that foods comply with the CNS and beverages comply with the state beverage statute and Smart Snacks. Use the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage to verify that the food or beverage is listed. Check that the product's information exactly matches the CSDE-approved product, including the manufacturer name, product name, product description (e.g., variety/flavor), serving size, case pack, product code, and nutrition information. If the food will include accompaniments (such as butter, cream cheese, salad dressing, and condiments), add the nutrition information for the food and its accompaniments together to determine if the product still complies with the CNS. Accompaniments that cause an approved product to exceed the CNS limits cannot be served with the product. Commercial products that are not on the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage cannot be sold to students. Districts may submit products to the CSDE for review using the steps in the CSDE's [Submitting Food and Beverage Products for Approval](#).

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3. **Review orders before submitting to vendors:** Review orders for competitive foods to make sure that all foods comply with the CNS and all beverages comply with the state beverage statute and Smart Snacks (refer to strategy 2).
4. **Verify vendor assurances of product compliance:** When a food manufacturer, vendor, distributor, or salesperson indicates that a product complies with the CNS or state beverage statute, verify that these products are included on the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage (refer to strategy 1). The CSDE does not review or approve vendor lists of compliant products or vendor statements about compliant products. A common vendor error is assuming that commercial products that meet the USDA's Smart Snacks nutrition standards also comply with the CNS. Many Smart Snacks products do not comply with the CNS because the CNS requirements are stricter. For more information, refer to the CSDE's chart, [Comparison of the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and the USDA's Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards](#).
5. **Check deliveries when received:** Ordering products that are on the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage does not guarantee they will be delivered. Check deliveries to verify that vendors do not substitute noncompliant products. Refuse any noncompliant products and remind the vendor that substitutions are not allowed. Noncompliant products discovered after an order is delivered must be returned to the vendor.

For detailed guidance on evaluating foods and preventing compliance issues, refer to the CSDE's resources, [How to Evaluate Commercial Food Products for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) and [How to Evaluate Foods Made from Scratch for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#).

Training on compliance strategies is available in "Module 4: Evaluating Foods for CNS Compliance" of the CSDE's [Complying with Healthy Food Certification](#) training program.

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Allowable Sales of Noncompliant Foods and Beverages

Noncompliant foods and beverages may be sold to adults (such as school staff and parents) at any time. The state and federal laws for competitive foods apply only to students.

Culinary programs cannot sell noncompliant foods and beverages to students; they are not eligible for food or beverage exemptions because they do not meet the definition of an event (refer to “[Allowable Foods](#)” and “[Allowable Beverages](#)” in this document).

Culinary programs could prepare noncompliant foods and beverages to sell to students if: 1) the BOE has voted to allow food and beverage exemptions; and 2) the sales occur at the location of an event that meets the exemption criteria of the state HFC and beverage statutes (refer to the CSDE’s [Exemptions for Foods and Beverages in Public Schools](#)). For example, the culinary program could make cupcakes and cookies to sell to students at the location of a school concert (event) that occurs in the evening (after the school day). If the event occurs while any CNPs are operating, Sections 10-215b-1 and 10-215b-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies require additional restrictions (refer to “[State Competitive Foods Regulations](#)” in this document).

USDA School Wellness Policy (SWP) Requirements

The LEA’s locally developed SWP may have additional requirements for selling and giving foods and beverages to students. The Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 ([Public Law 108-265](#)) required all schools and institutions participating in the NSLP and SBP to develop a SWP by the first day of school year 2006-07. Section 204 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 ([Public Law 111-296](#)) strengthened the SWP law by adding requirements for public participation, transparency, and implementation. These requirements were effective August 29, 2016, under USDA’s final rule, [Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the HFFKA of 2010](#).

Among other requirements, the LEA’s SWP must include nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages that are available for sale to students, or provided to students free of charge, on school premises during the school day. At a minimum, the LEA’s SWP for foods and beverages must meet all applicable federal and state nutrition standards and requirements. For more information on SWPs, visit the CSDE’s [School Wellness Policies](#) webpage.



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Statute Requiring Nutritious and Low-fat Foods

C.G.S. Section 10-221p requires that whenever foods are available for sale to students during the school day, nutritious and low-fat foods must also be available for sale at the same time, either at the location of the food sales or elsewhere in the school. The statute defines “nutritious and low-fat foods” as low-fat dairy foods (such as low-fat cheese and low-fat or nonfat yogurt) and fresh or dried fruit. Low-fat milk is a beverage and cannot be used to meet the statutory requirement for low-fat foods.

Culinary programs that sell foods to students during the school day must also sell low-fat dairy foods and fresh or dried fruit unless these foods are available for sale to students elsewhere on school premises at the same time. For sales consisting of preordered foods, the nutritious low-fat foods specified in the statute must be available for sale when students receive the foods, not when students order the foods. For more information on C.G.S. Section 10-221p, refer to section 4 of the CSDE’s [*Questions and Answers on Connecticut Statutes for School Foods and Beverages*](#).

State Competitive Foods Regulations

Sections 10-215b-1 and 10-215b-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies restrict candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks; and regulate the accrual of income from all foods and beverages sold to students anywhere on school premises. These requirements apply to culinary programs that sell or give foods and beverages to students while any CNPs are operating. This includes tickets, coupons, tokens, and similar items that are sold or given to students and can be exchanged for foods and beverages in culinary programs; student orders for foods and beverages from culinary programs; and distribution of foods and beverages to students. Sections 10-215b-1 and 10-215b-23 apply regardless of when students will consume the foods and beverages.

Section 10-215b-1: Restrictions for candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks

Section 10-215b-1 of the state competitive foods regulations prohibits selling and giving candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students anywhere on school premises from 30 minutes before up through 30 minutes after the operation of any CNPs.

- “Candy” includes all types of regular and sugar-free varieties, such as chocolates; candy bars; chocolate-covered nuts and fruits; hard candies and lollipops; chewy candies like caramels, taffy, and licorice; jelly candies like gumdrops, gummies, and jelly beans; and breath mints.
- “Coffee” and “tea” include all types, e.g., regular, decaffeinated, herbal and iced.

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- “Soft drinks” include all beverages (with or without carbonation) that contain water and/or juice and added sweeteners (including nutritive sweeteners, nonnutritive sweeteners, and sugar alcohols) and may also contain other ingredients such as edible acids, natural or artificial flavors and colors, and added nutrients. Examples include soda (regular and diet), sports drinks (regular, low-calorie, and zero calorie), sweetened beverages (with or without carbonation) that are not 100 percent juice (such as lemonade and fruit punch drinks), and flavored water with added sweeteners.

Depending on when CNPs operate, the CNS, state beverage statute, and Smart Snacks beverage standards may supersede Section 10-215b-1; or Section 10-215b-1 may supersede the CNS, state beverage statute, and Smart Snacks beverage standards. These requirements are summarized below.

- **Selling candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks:** The CNS and state beverage statute supersede Section 10-215b-1 because they apply at all times, not just while CNPs are operating. Culinary programs are not eligible for food and beverage exemptions under the state HFC beverage statutes and can never sell candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students.
- **Giving candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks:** The CNS, Smart Snacks beverage standards, and state beverage statute do not apply when foods and beverages are given to students. However, Section 10-215b-1 prohibits giving candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students anywhere on school premises from 30 minutes before up through 30 minutes after the operation of any CNPs, including during and after the school day. For example, if the NSLP operates from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., culinary programs cannot give coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students anywhere on school premises from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The CSDE strongly encourages schools to promote consistent health messages to students by eliminating candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks on school premises; even when allowed by federal and state laws.



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Section 10-215b-23: Accrual of income

Section 10-215b-23 of the state competitive foods regulations requires that the gross income from all foods and beverages sold to students anywhere on school premises from 30 minutes before up through 30 minutes after the operation of any CNPs must accrue to the nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA). The NSFSA is the restricted revenue account used only for the operation or improvement of the nonprofit school food service.

All sales of foods and beverages to students from culinary programs during this time must comply with this regulation. This includes:

- sales of foods that comply with the CNS;
- sales of beverages that comply with the state beverage statute and Smart Snacks;
- student orders for foods and beverages; and
- sales of tickets, coupons, tokens, and similar items that students can exchange for foods and beverages.



The example below shows how Section 10-215b-23 applies to culinary programs.

Example: The SBP operates from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., the NSLP operates from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and the ASP operates from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The NSFSA must receive the culinary program's income from all foods and beverages sold to students on school premises from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information on the competitive foods regulations, refer to the CSDE's [Overview of Connecticut's Competitive Foods Regulations](#) and [Operational Memorandum No. 1-18: Accrual of Income from Sales of Competitive Foods in Schools](#).

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Resources

Allowable Beverages in Connecticut Public Schools (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/Allowable_Beverages_Public_Schools.pdf

Beverage Requirements (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Beverage-Requirements>

C.G.S. Section 10-215e: Nutrition standards for food that is not part of lunch or breakfast program:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_169.htm#sec_10-215e

C.G.S. Section 10-215f: Certification that food meets nutrition standards:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_169.htm#sec_10-215f

C.G.S. Section 10-221p: Boards to make available for purchase nutritious and low-fat foods:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_170.htm#sec_10-221p

C.G.S. Section 10-221q: Sale of beverages:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_170.htm#sec_10-221q

Competitive Foods in Schools (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Competitive-Foods>

Complying with Healthy Food Certification (CSDE training program):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification/Related-Resources#ComplyingHFC>

Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Connecticut-Nutrition-Standards>

CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 1-18: Accrual of Income from Sales of Competitive Foods in Schools:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Memos/OM2018/OM01-18.pdf>

CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 31-14: Federal and State Requirements for Culinary Education Programs (Smart Snacks versus Connecticut Nutrition Standards):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Memos/OM2014/OM31-14.pdf>

Comparison of the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and the USDA's Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/Comparison_Chart_Connecticut_Nutrition_Standards_and_Smart_Snacks.pdf

Culinary Programs ("Related Resources" section of CSDE's HFC webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification/Related-Resources#CulinaryPrograms>

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Evaluate Foods for CNS Compliance (“How To” section of CSDE’s Connecticut Nutrition Standards webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Connecticut-Nutrition-Standards/How-To>

Exemptions for Foods and Beverages in Public Schools (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Exemptions_Food_Beverages_Public_Schools.pdf

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 (81 FR 50131).

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/fr-072916d>

Guidance on Evaluating Recipes for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Evaluating_Recipes_CNS_Compliance.pdf

Guide to Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/Competitive_Foods_Guide_HFC.pdf

Healthy Food Certification (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification>

How to Evaluate Commercial Food Products for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Evaluate_Commercial_Food_Products_CNS.pdf

How to Evaluate Foods Made from Scratch for Compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Evaluate_Scratch_Foods_CNS_Compliance.pdf

List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/List-of-Acceptable-Foods-and-Beverages>

Overview of Connecticut’s Competitive Foods Regulations (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/Overview_CT_Competitive_Foods_Regulations.pdf

Overview of Federal and State Laws for Competitive Foods in Connecticut Public Schools, Private Schools, and Residential Child Care Institutions (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/Overview_Federal_State_Laws_Competitive_Foods.pdf

Requirements for Foods and Beverages in Culinary Programs in HFC Public Schools

Questions and Answers on Connecticut Statutes for School Foods and Beverages:

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/
Questions_Answers_Connecticut_Statutes_School_Foods_Beverages.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Questions_Answers_Connecticut_Statutes_School_Foods_Beverages.pdf)

Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/
Requirements_Competitive_Foods_HFC.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Requirements_Competitive_Foods_HFC.pdf)

Resources for Meeting the Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Schools (CSDE):

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/
Resources_Federal_State_Requirements_Competitive_Foods.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/Resources_Federal_State_Requirements_Competitive_Foods.pdf)

Sections 10-215b-1 and 10-215b-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/Title_10Subtitle_10-215b/

Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Smart-Snacks-Nutrition-Standards>

Summary Chart: Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/
Summary_Chart_Requirements_Competitive_Foods_HFC.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/Summary_Chart_Requirements_Competitive_Foods_HFC.pdf)

Summary of Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE):

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/CNS/
Connecticut_Nutrition_Standards_Summary.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/CNS/Connecticut_Nutrition_Standards_Summary.pdf)

Requirements for Foods and Beverages in Culinary Programs in HFC Public Schools



For more information, visit the CSDE's [Healthy Food Certification](#) and [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) webpages or contact the [HFC Coordinator](#) 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/Culinary_Programs_Requirements_HFC.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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