

# Data on Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Participation



Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)  
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

# HFC Requirements

**Public school districts that implement HFC under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes must follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for**

- **All foods available for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals from all sources on school premises**
- **All foods served in the USDA's Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)**



# HFC Participation for School Year 2023-24

- 186 school districts/schools
- 96.9% of eligible districts/schools
- 3 new schools
- 100% recertification rate

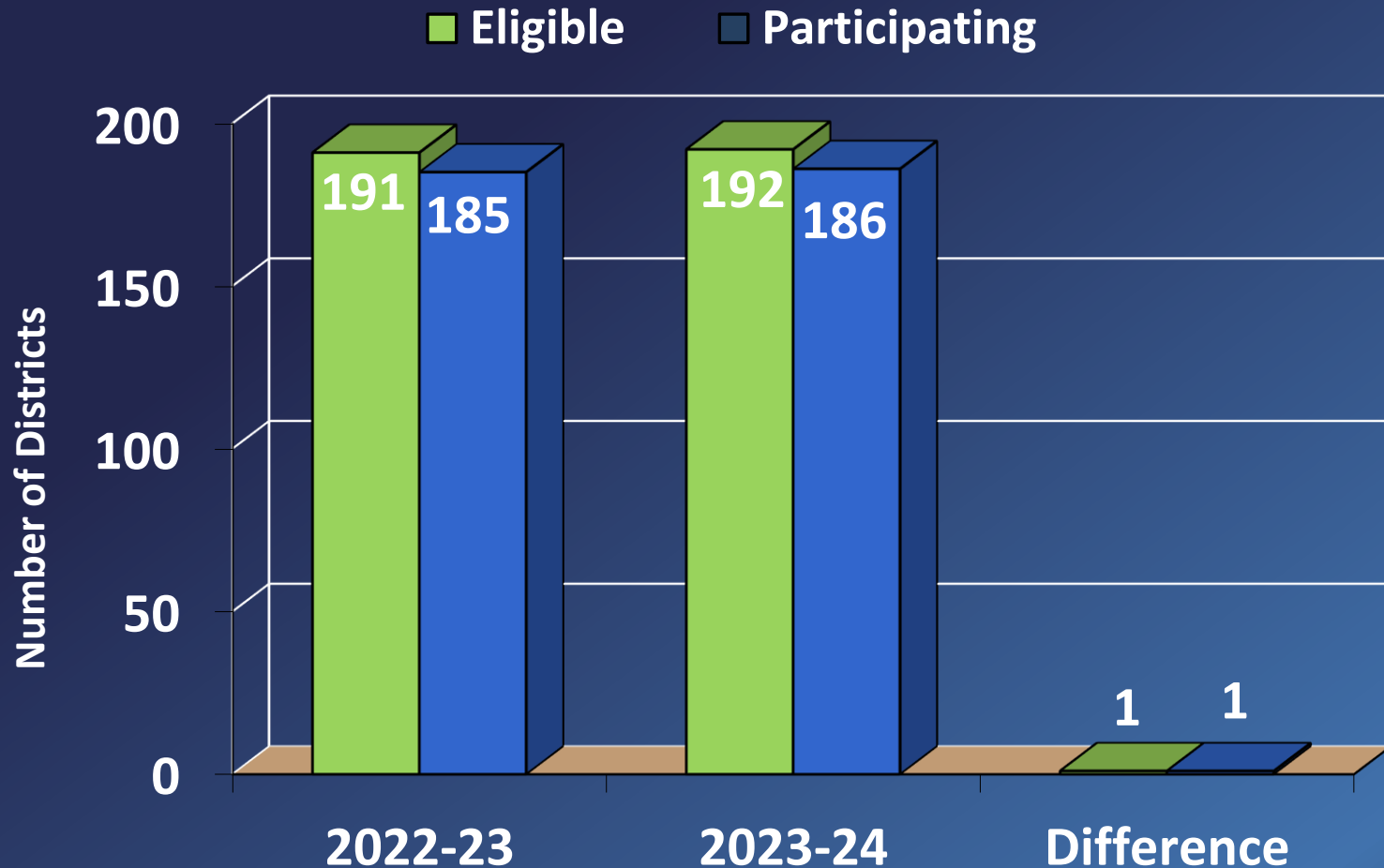


# HFC Participation for School Year 2023-24

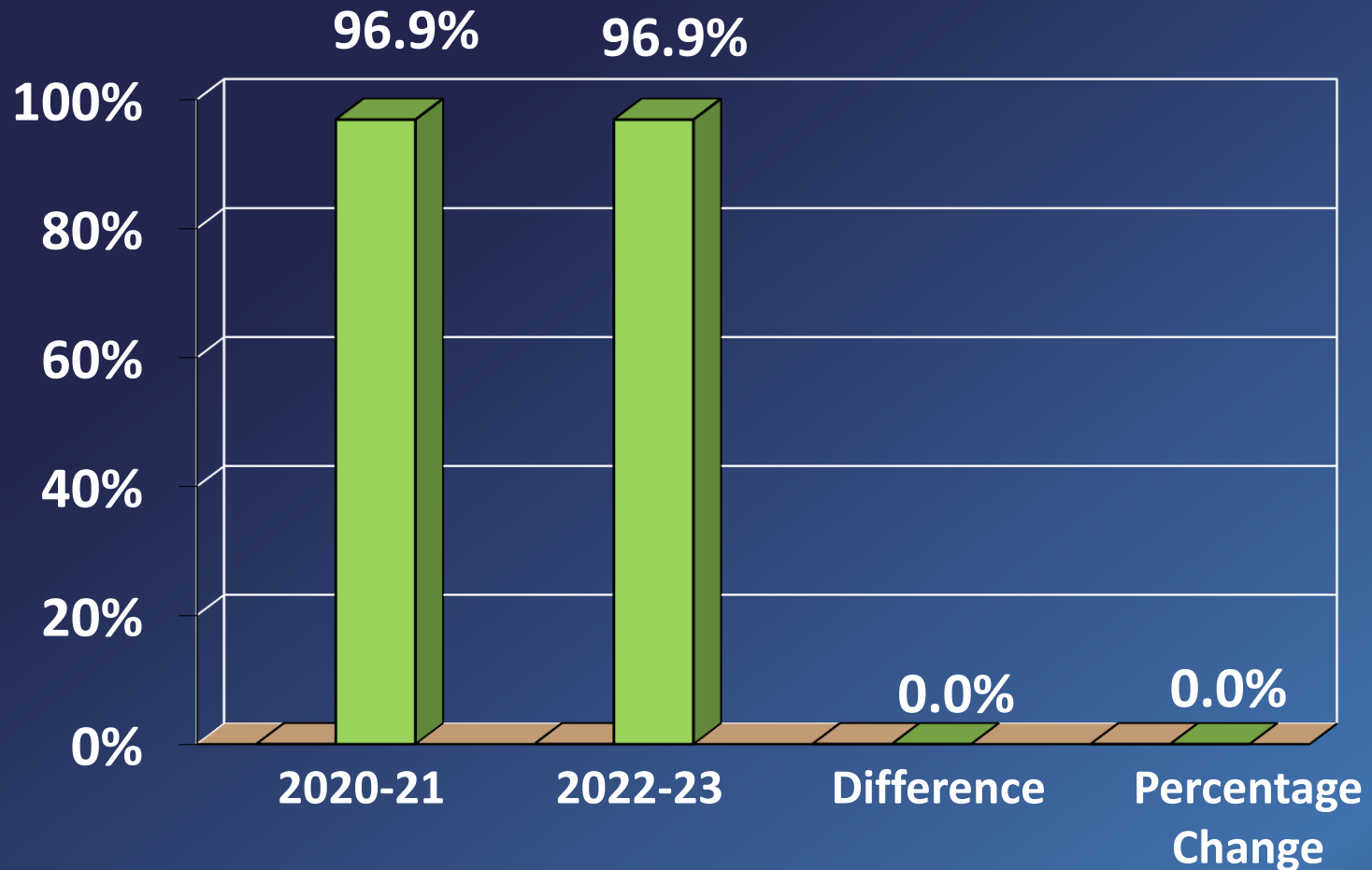
- Same percentage of HFC as school year 2023-24
- 90.8% increase from first year (2006-07)



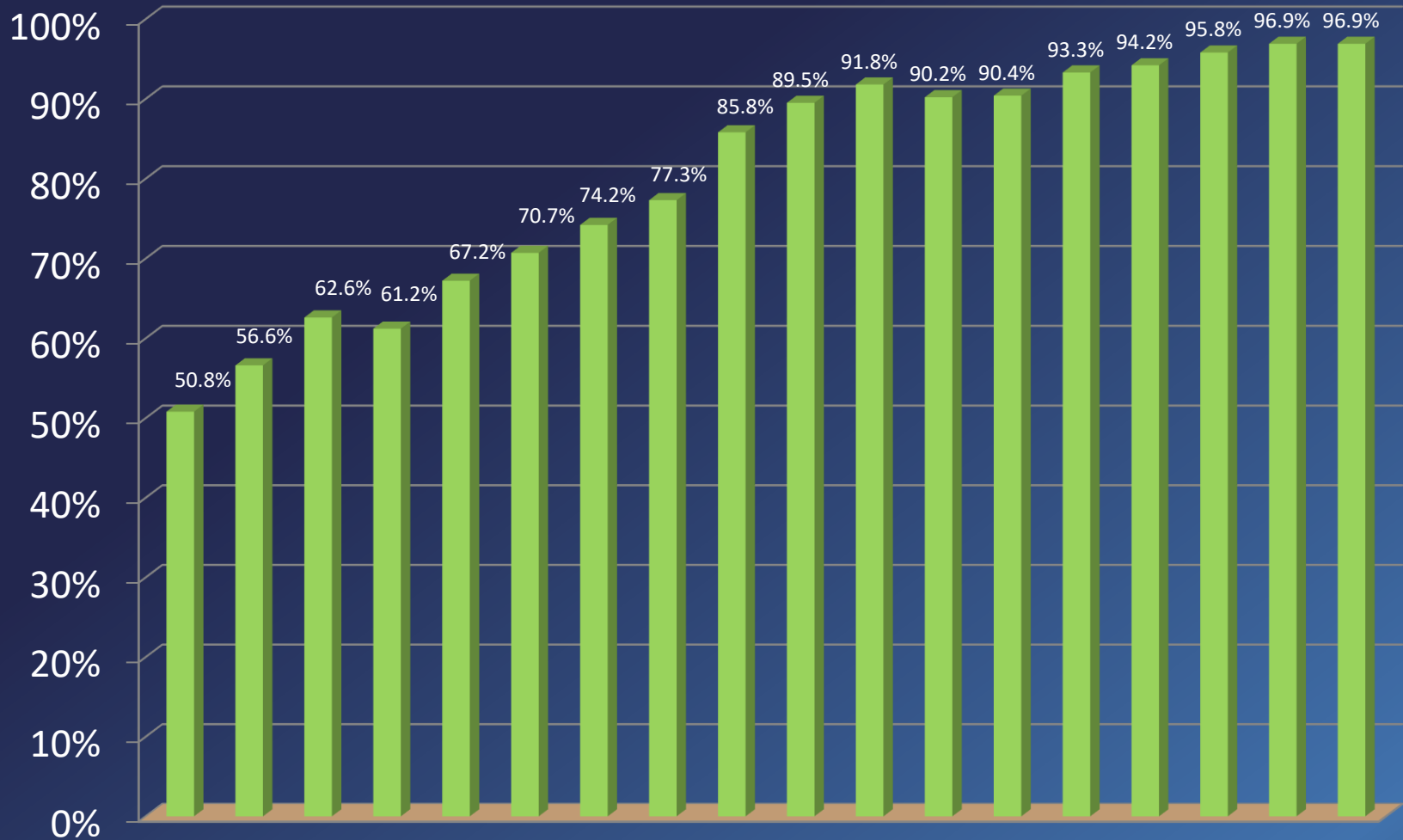
# Eligible versus Participating Districts 2022-23 to 2023-24



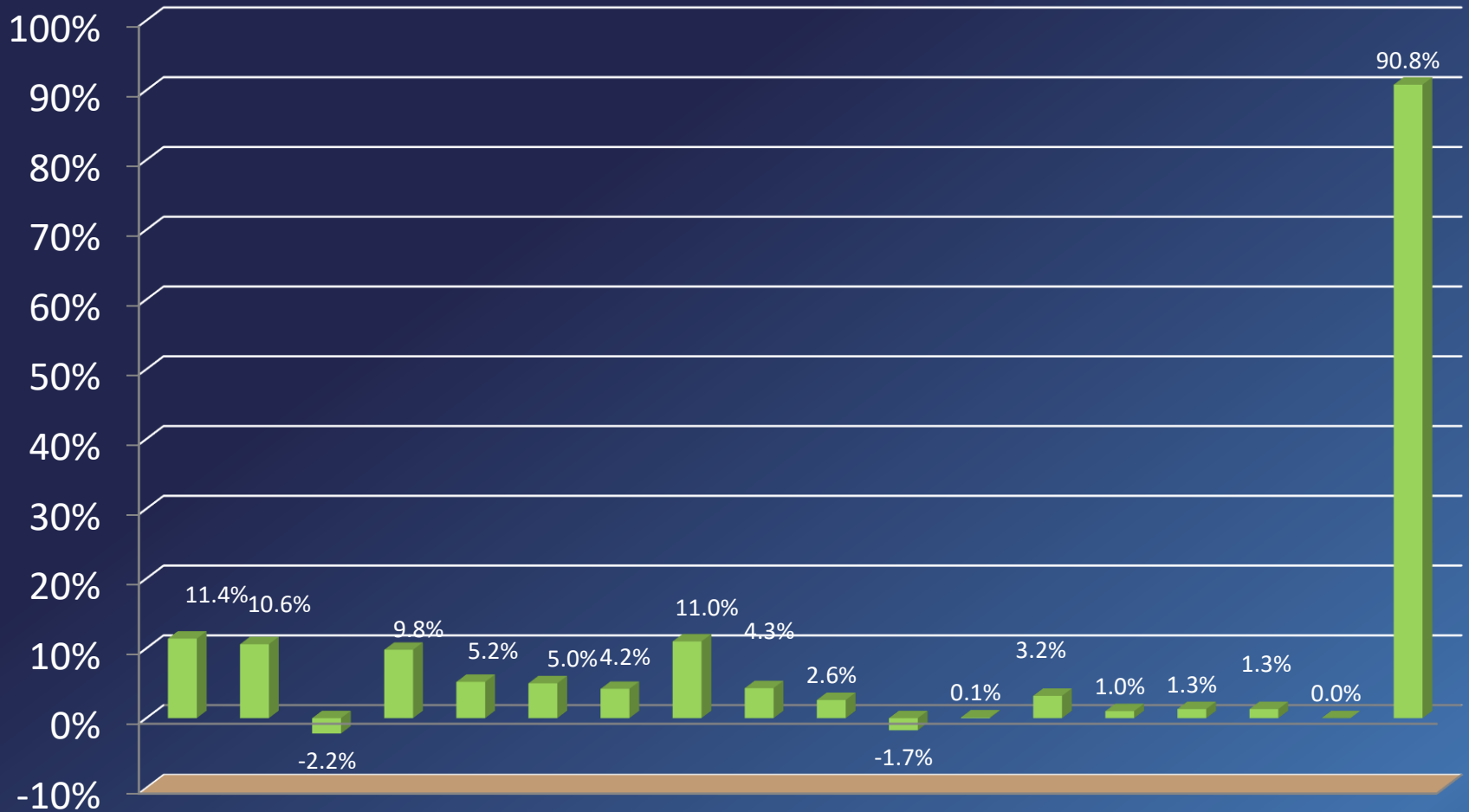
# No Change in HFC Participation 2022-23 to 2023-24



# HFC Participation to Date



# Percent change in HFC Participation to Date





## List of HFC Districts for School Year 2023-24

### Healthy Food Certification Participation for School Year 2023-24

Public school districts that choose to implement the healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification (HFC) under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes must follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals. For school year 2023-24, 186 of the 192 eligible districts and schools (96.9 percent) are implementing the healthy food option of HFC. HFC-eligible districts are public schools that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Public schools include public school districts, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, endowed academies, and regional educational service centers.

HFC districts that are new to HFC or have returned to HFC for school year 2023-24 are indicated in **bold**. Schools that participate in the NSLP through an interschool agreement with another Public Schools may choose to implement the healthy food option of HFC if the sponsoring Public Schools implements HFC. These schools are indicated under "Interschool Agreements" on page 3, with the sponsoring district indicated in parentheses.

School districts not listed have either chosen not to implement HFC or are not eligible for HFC. For more information, refer to the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [Map of Connecticut School Districts Participating in HFC](#).

#### Public School Districts

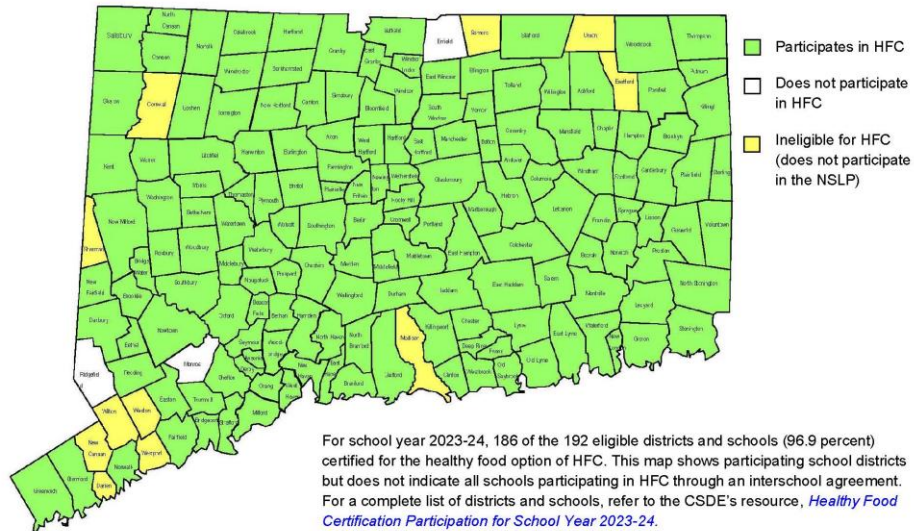
- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Ansonia School District     | 23. Danbury School District       |
| 2. Ashford School District     | 24. Deep River School District    |
| 3. Avon School District        | 25. Derby School District         |
| 4. Berlin School District      | 26. East Haddam School District   |
| 5. Bethany School District     | 27. East Hampton School District  |
| 6. Bethel School District      | 28. East Hartford School District |
| 7. Bloomfield School District  | 29. East Haven School District    |
| 8. Bolton School District      | 30. East Lyme School District     |
| 9. Bozrah School District      | 31. East Windsor School District  |
| 10. Branford School District   | 32. Ellington School District     |
| 11. Bridgeport School District | 33. Essex School District         |
| 12. Bristol School District    | 34. Fairfield School District     |
| 13. Brookfield School District | 35. Farmington School District    |
| 14. Canterbury School District | 36. Glastonbury School District   |
| 15. Canton School District     | 37. Granby School District        |
| 16. Chaplin School District    | 38. Greenwich School District     |
| 17. Cheshire School District   | 39. Griswold School District      |
| 18. Chester School District    | 40. Groton School District        |
| 19. Clinton School District    | 41. Guilford School District      |
| 20. Colchester School District | 42. Hamden School District        |
| 21. Coventry School District   | 43. Hartford School District      |
| 22. Cromwell School District   | 44. Hebron Public Schools         |

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/data/hfc\\_schools.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/data/hfc_schools.pdf)

# Map of HFC Districts for School Year 2023-24

## Map of Connecticut School Districts Participating in Healthy Food Certification (HFC) for School Year 2023-24

Under [Section 10-215f](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes, HFC requires each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether they will follow the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#). These standards apply to all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals. Public schools include public school districts, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical High School System, charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies.



[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/data/hfc\\_map.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/data/hfc_map.pdf)

# CSDE Resource

## Healthy Food Certification Webpage

Connecticut's Official State Website

Search Connecticut Government...

Language + Settings

CT.gov Home / Department of Education / K-12 Education / Nutrition / Healthy Food Certification (HFC)

### Healthy Food Certification (HFC)

- Overview
- Eligibility
- Apply
- Documents/Forms
- Related Resources
- Laws/Regulations
- FAQs
- Contact

Provided by: Department of Education

#### Overview

[School Nutrition Programs](#) | [Program Guidance](#) | [Forms](#) | [Resources](#) | [Nutrition Education](#) | [Beverage Requirements](#) | [Competitive Foods](#) | [CNS](#) | [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#)

Healthy Food Certification (HFC) under [Section 10-215f](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) must **certify annually** to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether the district will follow the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards \(CNS\)](#) for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals. Public school districts include the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies. Private schools and residential child care institutions are not eligible for HFC.

The CNS applies to all sources of food sales on school premises at all times including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises. Districts that choose the healthy food option of HFC receive an additional 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free, and reduced) served in the prior school year.

#### HFC Overview

- CSDE Training Program: [Complying with Healthy Food Certification](#)
- HFC Overview: [Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools](#)
- HFC Guide: [Guide to Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools \(CSDE\)](#)
- [Resources for Meeting the Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Schools \(CSDE\)](#)
- [Summary Chart: Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools \(CSDE\)](#)
- [Summary of Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#)

- HFC participation (list of schools and state HFC map)
- HFC application
- HFC documentation
- HFC forms
- HFC resources

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification>

## Connecticut Nutrition Standards Webpage

ct.gov Connecticut's Official State Website Search Connecticut Government... Language + Settings

CT.gov Home / Department of Education / Connecticut Nutrition Standards

### Connecticut Nutrition Standards

- Overview
- How To
- Related Resources
- Laws/Regulations
- Contact

Provided by:  
Department of Education

#### Overview

[School Nutrition Programs](#) | [Program Guidance](#) | [Forms](#) | [Resources](#) | [Nutrition Education](#) | [Healthy Food Certification](#) | [Beverage Requirements](#) | [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#)

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) developed the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) in response to [Section 10-215e](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes, which required the CSDE to publish a set of nutrition standards for foods offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable school meals in public schools. The CNS focuses on:

- moderating calories;
- limiting fat, saturated fat, sodium, and sugars;
- eliminating trans fat; and
- promoting more nutrient-dense foods such as whole grains, fruits, vegetables, low-fat and nonfat dairy products, lean meats, legumes, and nuts and seeds.

The general standards and nutrients addressed in the CNS are based on current nutrition science and national health recommendations from the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), and national health organizations such as the National Academy of Medicine, and American Heart Association. The CSDE's state nutrition standards committee reviews the CNS annually, and determines if updates are needed to reflect changes in current nutrition science and national health recommendations.

Public school districts that choose to implement the healthy food option under [C.G.S. Section 10-215f](#) (Healthy Food Certification) must follow the CNS for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals, at all times and from all sources on school premises, including a la carte sales in the cafeteria, vending machines, school stores, fundraisers, culinary programs, and any other sources of food sales to students. For more information, visit the CSDE's [HFC](#) and [Competitive Foods](#) webpages.

The CNS meets or exceeds the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Smart Snacks nutrition standards for competitive foods. For information on the USDA's Smart Snacks standards, visit the CSDE's [Smart Snacks](#) and [Competitive Foods](#) webpages.

- CNS summary
- Full CNS document
- Guidance on how to evaluate foods for CNS compliance
- CNS worksheet

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification>

# CSDE Resource

## Beverage Requirements Webpage

The screenshot shows the official website for the Connecticut State Department of Education's Beverage Requirements. The page features a dark blue header with the 'ct.gov' logo, the text 'Connecticut's Official State Website', a search bar, and a 'Language + Settings' button. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads 'CT.gov Home / Department of Education / Beverage Requirements'. The main heading is 'Beverage Requirements'. On the left, a navigation menu includes 'Overview' (highlighted), 'Documents/Forms', 'Laws/Regulations', and 'Contact'. The main content area is titled 'Overview' and contains several paragraphs of text. The first paragraph discusses the application of Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes. The second paragraph mentions the USDA's Smart Snacks nutrition standards. The third paragraph details the requirements for public schools. At the bottom, a light blue box contains links for 'Beverage Requirements for Public Schools | Prohibited Beverages' and 'Beverage Requirements for Private Schools and RCCIs'. The page is provided by the Department of Education.

CT.gov Home / Department of Education / Beverage Requirements

## Beverage Requirements

Overview

Documents/Forms

Laws/Regulations

Contact

Provided by:  
**Department of Education**

### Overview

[HFC](#) | [Competitive Foods](#) | [CNS](#) | [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#)

**Section 10-221q** of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) governs beverages sold to students in public schools. It applies to beverages sold as part of school meals and separately from school meals anywhere on school premises at all times, such as cafeteria sales, school stores, vending machines, fundraisers, and any other locations where beverages are sold.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Smart Snacks nutrition standards](#) apply to beverages sold to students separately from school meals during the school day on school premises, such as cafeteria a la carte sales, school stores, vending machines, fundraisers, and any other locations where beverages are sold. Smart Snacks applies to public schools, private schools, and residential child care institutions (RCCIs) that participate in the USDA's school nutrition programs, e.g., [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program SBP](#), [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#), and [Special Milk Program \(SMP\)](#).

Public schools must comply with Smart Snacks and the stricter provisions of Connecticut's beverage statute. All schools (public and private) and institutions that participate in the USDA's school nutrition programs must also comply with the state [competitive foods regulations](#) (Sections 10-215b-1 and 10-215b-23).

[Beverage Requirements for Public Schools](#) | [Prohibited Beverages](#)  
[Beverage Requirements for Private Schools and RCCIs](#)

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

# CSDE Resource

## List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Connecticut State Website with the logo, search bar, and language settings. Below is a breadcrumb trail: CT.gov Home / Education / K-12 Education / Nutrition and Meal Programs / List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages. The main heading is 'List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages'. A left sidebar contains links for Overview, Related Resources, Laws/Regulations, and Contact. The main content area features an 'Overview' section with a list of links: School Nutrition Programs | Program Guidance | Forms | Resources | Nutrition Education Beverage Requirements | CNS | Competitive Foods | HFC. The text explains that the list includes products compliant with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) and Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes. It also mentions that public schools implementing Healthy Food Certification (HFC) must follow the CNS for reimbursable meals. At the bottom, a light blue box contains links for List Guidelines, List Updates, and List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages.

CT.gov Home / Education / K-12 Education / Nutrition and Meal Programs / List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages

### List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages

[Overview](#)

[Related Resources](#)

[Laws/Regulations](#)

[Contact](#)

Provided by:  
**Department of Education**

#### Overview

[School Nutrition Programs](#) | [Program Guidance](#) | [Forms](#) | [Resources](#) | [Nutrition Education Beverage Requirements](#) | [CNS](#) | [Competitive Foods](#) | [HFC](#)

The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages includes brand-specific lists of commercial food products that comply with the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards \(CNS\)](#) and commercial beverages that comply with the beverage requirements of [Section 10-221q](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.). These foods and beverages also meet the USDA's Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

Public schools that choose to implement the healthy food option of [Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\)](#) under C.G.S. [Section 10-215f](#) must follow the CNS for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable meals. The state beverage requirements (C.G.S. Section 10-221q) apply to all public schools, even if they do not choose the healthy food option of HFC or do not participate in the NSLP.

[List Guidelines](#) | [List Updates](#) | [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#)

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

# Questions?

- **Contact the state HFC coordinator or CSDE's school nutrition programs staff**



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification/contact>

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/contact-information-for-school-nutrition-programs>

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