

POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE REMINDERS

JULY 9, 2015

Topic: Vending Machines/ Smart Snacks

Effective July 2, 2014, any food or beverage sold to student on the school campus during the school day must meet federal [Smart Snacks standards](#). This includes food or beverages sold in a la carte sales, vending machines, school stores, snack carts, and fundraisers. Any entity selling food to student is required to maintain records, such as nutrition labels and product specifications. This Smart Snacks rule applied to all foods sold during the school day, beginning at 12:01 a.m. and ending 30 minutes after the end of the scheduled school day. As a result of this new rule, HCBOE Policy EED, Vending Machines, was revised.

HCBOE Policy EED states in Full:

All foods sold in Henry County Schools will comply with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) "Smart Snacks in School" nutrition standards. This rule applies to all foods sold during the school day, which begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends 30 minutes after the end of the scheduled school day.

What food and beverage items are covered by the new rule?

This policy covers any items sold to students. This does not apply to:

- Foods sold after school hours
- Foods sold off school campus
- Foods sold exclusively to adults
- Foods given to students at no charge
- Foods brought from home for student consumption

How does the U.S. Department of Education define a fundraiser?

Any event or activity during which student exchange currency/tokens/tickets, etc., for the sale/purchase of a product in support of the school or school-related activities (e.g. giving food away but suggesting a donation, special treats sold during lunch, pizza sold in the classroom).

I read language in the Smart Snacks rule that refers to “a special exemption for infrequent fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition standards. State agencies may determine the frequency with which fundraising activities take place that allow the sale of food and beverage items that do not meet the nutrition standards.”

What does “infrequent fundraisers” mean and who defines it?

The Georgia State Board of Education approved 30 exempted fundraisers per school per school year not to exceed 3 days in length. However, there are time and place restrictions. Exempted fundraisers cannot operate anywhere on the school campus 30 minutes before until 30 minutes after the end of breakfast and lunch meal services. Exempted fundraisers cannot be in school cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack bars or a la carte sales. Fundraisers occurring in these venues must meet the Smart Snacks standards.

Are there any consequences for selling foods of minimal nutritional value?

Yes! The State Department performs regular Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) inspections. All findings of the sale of foods not meeting the Smart Snacks standards are cited as violations. If these violations are not corrected, we are subject to losing our federal funding.

Bottom line?

If a food or beverage meets the Smart Snacks guidelines, it can be sold anywhere, at any time on the school campus. School Nutrition can provide some information on the food and beverage items that they are familiar with. These items, however, are extremely restricted under this new rule. If you are in doubt, please check with School Nutrition.