

As of August 1, 2004, all Texas public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program must comply with the nutrition policies outlined in the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy. This policy, which is enforced by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), contains regulations and guidelines dealing with Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV), nutrition standards, portion sizes, and competitive foods and snacks for all public school grade levels.

Detailed information regarding the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy may be found at the following website: www.squaremeals.org. The website for the Texas Department of Agriculture is: www.agr.state.tx.us.

FOODS OF MINIMALLY
NUTRITIOUS VALUE
(FMNV)

In accordance with Texas Public School Nutrition Policy guidelines, the availability of Foods of Minimally Nutritious Value (FMNVs) in public schools is regulated or prohibited according to the following schedule:

Elementary Schools FMNVs are not allowed at any time during the school day, except as allowed for under certain exemptions in the TDA policy.

Middle Schools FMNVs are not allowed until after the last lunch period, except as allowed for under certain exemptions in the TDA policy.

High Schools FMNVs are not allowed during meal periods in areas where reimbursable meals are served and consumed, except as allowed for under certain exemptions in the TDA policy.

Students may be given FMNV or other restricted foods during the school day on up to three different events each school year as allowed by the Texas Nutrition Policy.

A campus will have discretion as to the number of events each year, provided, however, that it may not exceed the maximum of three school days as allowed in the TDA policy.

The number of events allowed hereunder and the designated days for each shall be determined by the campus and submitted to the appropriate executive director for instruction prior to the beginning of each school year.

During these events, FMNV may not be given during meal times in the areas where school meals are being served or consumed, and regular meal service (breakfast and lunch) must continue to be available to all students in accordance with federal regulations.

The other exemptions to the FMNV rules as outlined in the TDA policy are limited to the following:

1. The FMNV rules do not apply to school nurses using FMNVs during the course of providing health care to individual students.
2. Special Needs Students whose IEP plan indicates the use of a FMNV or candy for behavior modification or other suitable need.

COMPETITIVE FOODS

Competitive foods are defined in the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy as all foods and beverages that are not provided by school food service.

Competitive foods include, but are not limited to, food and beverages sold or provided in vending machines, in school stores not operated by the school's food services program or as part of school fundraisers.

School fundraisers include food sold by school administrators or staff, students or student groups, parents or parent groups, or any other person, company or organization.

Competitive foods are prohibited or restricted from being provided to students during the times designated as follows:

Elementary Schools Competitive foods are not allowed at elementary schools at any time during the school day.

Middle Schools Competitive foods are not allowed at middle schools thirty minutes before a meal period, during a meal period, or thirty minutes after a meal period.

High Schools Competitive foods are not allowed at high schools during meal periods in areas where reimbursable meals are served and consumed.

Teachers may use competitive food for instructional purposes in the classroom provided the food items are not FMNVs or candy and there is a strong instructional connection to the use of food as it relates to the TEKS.

Following the intent and spirit of the nutritional guidelines, any use of food in instruction must be:

1. built into a well-developed lesson connected directly to the TEKS and PISD curriculum
2. used only when equivalent alternatives to food are not found

3. a non-FMNV item
4. a single one-time snack size portion (3 oz or less)

An example of appropriate use would be a lesson where a food item might replicate something that was served during the actual time period (following TDA guidelines), such as tasting a cranberry or venison.

A non-example of appropriate use would be a topical lesson including multiple food sampling.

Texas Public School Nutrition Policies apply to all guest speakers.

The District highly recommends seeking alternatives to using competitive foods as classroom incentives and rewards. Any such incentive or reward must follow the guidelines as outlined by the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy. FMNV may not be used as classroom incentive or reward at any time, such as within a class store purchased with "good behavior" money or points.

With regard to competitive foods, there is no distinction between foods that are sold and foods that are given away.

DEFINITION OF SCHOOL DAY

The school day is defined as beginning with the start of the first breakfast period until the end of the last instruction period of the day.

School activities that occur after the normal school day are not covered by either the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy or this administrative regulation.

Campus-approved field trips are exempt from both the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy and this administrative regulation.

The Texas Public School Nutrition Policy and this administrative regulation do not apply to students who leave campus to travel to athletic, UIL, band or other competitions. The school day is considered to have ended for these students.

FUNDRAISING AND FOOD

No food fundraising will be allowed on an elementary school campus during the school day. Elementary schools or school-approved organizations may take orders or sell vouchers during the school day for otherwise restricted items and deliver these items after the end of the school day.

For middle school and high school campuses, the nutrition standards in the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy apply to any food fundraising that takes place during the school day.

In any food fundraising at the middle or high schools, the restrictions noted under Competitive Foods above apply.

School fundraisers include food sold by school administrators or staff, students or student groups, parents or parent groups, or any other person, company or organization.

PARENTS, PARTIES,
PIZZA, AND
PROHIBITIONS

Parents may not bring food and refreshments during the school day for any child other than their own except under the following circumstances:

1. A nutritional snack in accordance with the guidelines of the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy, including FMNV, competitive foods, and allowable portion size, may be provided by parents for their child's class if authorized by the campus principal.
2. Classroom birthday recognitions are specifically allowed by the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy.
 - a. The District recommends that birthday recognitions be scheduled at the end of the school day. Birthday recognitions should not take place at any time a reimbursable meal is being served.
3. The Texas Public School Nutrition Policy does not apply to sack lunches or other meals brought to school by the student from home. No parent may bring food to school for students other than their own. No student may bring food to school for other students.

At elementary schools, a class or the school may not have a pizza party or other type of food event where the pizza or other type of food is provided by someone other than the school food service at any time before the last bell rings for the school day.

However, the school's food service may cater a reimbursable meal to a classroom or the school where pizza, or other food type, is one of the components of the reimbursable meal.

FIELD-TRIPS AND
FOOD

School-approved field trips are exempt from the nutrition policy, so a school has full discretion as to where to feed students while on a school-approved field trip.

Campuses are prohibited from removing students from campus for the sole purpose or intent of serving foods to students that are in violation of the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy or this administrative regulation (i.e. walking field trip for lunch).

SNACKS AT SCHOOLS Elementary classrooms may serve one nutritious snack per day in the morning or afternoon, not during lunchtime, under the classroom teacher's guidance. The following will apply:

1. These snacks may be provided by the school food service, the teacher, parents or other groups.
2. Snacks provided hereunder shall comply with the nutritional guidelines of the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy, including portion size, and must not be considered FMNV.

Schools and parents are permitted to provide one additional nutritious snack, meeting all of the guidelines of the Texas Nutrition Policy, per day for students taking the TAKS tests.