



FAQs about Food in School

What is the definition of “outside” food?

Food that is brought into school by anyone other than the school district/employee is considered “outside” food. The term applies equally to home baked or prepared food, or to pre-packaged items

Are parents permitted to bring in food they bake at home for a birthday celebration or special event during the school day?

No. Outside food is not permitted in classrooms during the school day for sharing at parties or celebrations.

Can parents buy pre-packaged food and bring it into school to celebrate a party or special event during the school day?

No. Outside food is not permitted in classrooms for sharing at parties or celebrations.

Will schools still welcome parents to bring in food for the Kindergarten Thanksgiving dinner celebration?

No. The Kindergarten Thanksgiving will be celebrated differently. Your child’s teacher/building principal will communicate more information with you.

Can the PTO still hold bake sales and offer food at events like the Spring Fair?

As per the Wellness Policy, events that happen after school hours (30 minutes or later after dismissal) are not governed by the new food rules. Also consistent with the Wellness Policy, the PTO may not sell outside food (either home baked or purchased) during the school day to students. In addition, any food sold to the public falls within the purview of the GVSD health department license, so coordination with the food service department is critical.

Can students still bring snacks to school?

Individual snacks are still permitted for personal consumption.

Can parents still bring food to cultural celebrations (like Heritage Night)?

If the event happens outside of the school day, parents may contribute food items if they wish. Events during the school day, however, may not include outside food.

Will food items still be offered in the classroom as a “reward”?

Food may be provided by school district personnel, per the Wellness Policy.

Do the new food rules include drinks?

Yes.

Will popsicles be available to students during Field Day?

Food, including popsicles, may be provided by school district personnel.

Can a teacher still have a snack available in the classroom for students who don't bring their own?

Yes. If a student does not have a snack, the teacher may make a snack available. The teacher is aware of allergies in his/her classroom and works carefully to ensure that snacks are safe for all children.

Can a homeroom parent work with food service to get food for a party?

No. Food is not permitted at school/classroom parties.

Where can I get more information about food allergies?

[Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention](#)

[Food Allergy Research and Education](#)

NOTE:

These FAQs are posted on the GVSD website at www.gvsd.org/food. As additional questions are asked, they will be answered online. Please visit the website for the most current list of FAQs.