

## **SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOLS FAQ'S**

### **CAN MY SCHOOL STILL HAVE FREE DAYS TO SELL ITEMS THAT DO NOT MEET SMART SNACK REGULATIONS?**

The Texas Department of Agriculture has set a maximum number of exempt (free) days that schools have an option of using beginning in school year 2015. Katy ISD has determined the following guidelines for use of exempt days:

- Elementary campuses are not allowed any exempt days throughout the school year.
- Junior High campuses are allowed up to 6 exempt days per school year. Fundraisers may not take place in areas where meals are served or consumed.
- High school campuses are allowed up to 6 exempt days per school year. Fundraisers may not take place in areas where meals are served or consumed. During the week that an exempt fundraiser is scheduled, no other fundraiser including those that meet Smart Snacks may occur.
- All exempt days must be approved by the campus principal by completing the Exempt Day Form. Exempt days, approved by the campus principal, must be submitted to the Nutrition and Food Services Department a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the exempt day occurring.

### **ARE FUNDRAISERS THAT SELL FOOD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY ALLOWED AND IF SO AT WHAT LEVELS?**

Fundraisers during the school day are allowed at the Junior High and High School level as long as the products meet the Smart Snacks Rule. Please see below for Katy ISD policy for time and place of fundraisers. At the junior high level, fundraisers cannot take place anywhere on the school campus from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after meal periods – this includes both breakfast and lunch meal periods. Fundraisers cannot take place in areas where reimbursable meals are served or consumed. At the High School level, fundraisers cannot take place during meal periods in areas where reimbursable school meals are served and/or consumed.

### **CAN PIZZA AND/OR CHICK-FIL-A BE SOLD AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AS A FUNDRAISER?**

The pizza and/or Chick-Fil-A sold during the school day can be sold as long as the product meets the Smart Snacks Rule for entrees. If the school wants to purchase this product, arrangements must be made in advance with the store because this is not their normal product and is not stocked. Please see below for Katy ISD policy for time and place of fundraisers.

### **CAN I SHARE MY PIZZA OR CUPCAKES OR ANY FOOD WITH MY FRIENDS?**

The Smart Snacks in Schools Regulation does not prohibit the sharing of items given away or donated.

### **ARE BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES ALLOWED IN THE CAFETERIA DURING MEAL PERIODS?**

Cupcakes and other food items given away are allowed in the cafeteria during meal periods. Parents and others are allowed to bring food for others as long as it is not sold to the student. Individual

campuses may have rules regarding foods brought from home, but that is a principal/site-based decision.

**IS FOOD ALLOWED TO BE GIVEN AS A REWARD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

Yes, as long as the food item is given away it does not have to meet the Smart Snack Regulation.

**ARE MUFFINS FOR MOM OR DONUTS FOR DAD STILL ALLOWED PROGRAMS?**

Yes, these programs give away food so there is no time or place restriction and they do not have to meet the Smart Snacks in School Rule.

**WHO KEEPS THE RECORDS ON FOODS SOLD ON THE CAMPUS OUTSIDE OF NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICE?**

The campus is responsible for documenting all receipts and nutritional information for items sold on the campus during the school day. This information will be required by the Texas Department of Agriculture during an Administrative Review of the Nutrition and Food Service Department.

**PARENTS PAY A SET AMOUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SO THEIR STUDENT CAN HAVE POPCORN MONTHLY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. IS THIS ALLOWED?**

No, this is considered as food sold during the school day and that food must meet the Smart Snack Rules.

**IF PARENTS DONATE MONEY TO BE USED FOR CLASS PARTIES DURING THE YEAR, DOES THE FOOD/BEVERAGE SERVED DURING THE PARTY HAVE TO MEET SMART SNACK GUIDELINES?**

If the food/beverage is being given away to all students during the party, it does not have to meet the Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines.

**ARE FOODS OF MINIMAL NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND/OR CANDY ALLOWED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

The term FMNV (Foods of Minimal Nutrition Value) no longer exists. Under TPSNP, neither FMNV nor candy were allowed during the school day. Smart Snacks in Schools requires all foods SOLD to students to meet the regulation. If the food or candy is given away, there is no standard to meet and is allowed at all levels.

**ARE SODAS ALLOWED TO BE SOLD AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL?**

Soft drinks may not be sold during the school day to any age/grade group in Katy ISD Schools. Soft drinks are defined as non-juice, carbonated beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners.

**CAN GATORADE BE SOLD ON CAMPUS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

Gatorade is not allowed in elementary schools and does not meet the standards in junior high. The low calorie version of the sports drink can be sold in 12 ounce size only at the high school level.

### **CAN GATORADE BE GIVEN AWAY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

Since the item is being given away, the product does not have to meet the Smart Snacks Regulations.

### **WILL CAMPUSES BE ABLE TO SELL FOOD ITEMS THAT DO NOT MEET THE SMART SNACK RULE DURING ATHLETIC EVENTS, CARNIVALS, & SCHOOL DANCES?**

Food items that do not meet the Smart Snacks Rule can be sold outside of the school day. The school day is midnight the day before to 30 minutes after the last bell.

### **CAN PARENTS BRING HOMEMADE FOOD ITEMS TO SCHOOL OR SCHOOL EVENTS?**

Homemade items sold to students during the school day must meet the Smart Snacks Rule. Any food items, purchased or homemade, given to students do not have to be compliant with the Smart Snack Rule. Individual campuses may have rules regarding foods brought from home, but that is a principal/site-based decision.

### **CAN FOOD ITEMS THAT ARE NOT COMPLIANT WITH THE SMART SNACKS RULE BE SOLD TO PARENTS OR TEACHERS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

The Smart Snacks in Schools Rule is applicable to students only during the school day.

### **WILL THERE BE A LIST OF AUTHORIZED SMART SNACK ITEMS PUBLISHED?**

The Nutrition and Food Service Department will be glad to answer questions in regards to products sold within the cafeteria. To check if a product is compliant, please complete the Smart Snacks Product Calculator which can be found at [Alliance Product Calculator](#).

### **KATY ISD TIME & PLACE POLICY FOR SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOLS**

The following are Katy ISD guidelines of time and place for sales of Smart Snacks at all levels, effective 9/1/14.

#### **ELEMENTARY:**

- An elementary school campus may not serve competitive foods (or provide access to them through indirect sales) to students anywhere on the school campus throughout the school day.

#### **JUNIOR HIGH:**

- A junior high school campus may not serve competitive foods (or provide access to them through indirect sales) to students anywhere on the school campus from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after meal periods.
- Confirmation of items meeting Smart Snack rules must be documented and retained by the campus.

## **HIGH SCHOOL:**

- High schools may not serve competitive foods (or provide access to them through indirect sales) to students during meal periods in areas where reimbursable school meals are served and/or consumed.
- Confirmation of items meeting Smart Snack rules must be documented and retained by the campus.

## **KATY ISD PROCEDURES FOR SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOLS**

The following are Katy ISD district procedures for time and place for sales of Smart Snacks at all levels.

### **ELEMENTARY:**

Two “party” days allowed per school year

- Food given away does not have to meet Smart Snacks rules.

### **JUNIOR HIGH:**

- Fundraiser may include an outside food vendor.
- All items sold must meet the Smart Snacks rules.
- Confirmation of items meeting Smart Snacks rules must be documented and retained by campus.

### **HIGH SCHOOL:**

Fundraisers may include one outside food vendor per week and a second outside food vendor every other week (or two vendors in one week every other week) selling Smart Snacks products.

- All items sold must meet the Smart Snacks rules.
- No diet sodas or carbonated beverages will be sold in student vending machines at any time during the school day.
- Confirmation of items meeting Smart Snacks rules must be documented and retained by campus.
- On the week that an exempt day is scheduled, no other Smart Snack fundraisers are allowed.
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### **ALL CAMPUSES:**

- Providing food items as either instructional tools or for positive reinforcement is highly discouraged.
- The campus principal has the discretion to set limits for any product(s) brought in to be given away to students (especially in regards to a concern for food allergies on campus).

- Texas Law regarding birthday celebrations in elementary school remains in effect. However, principals have discretion over the time/location for the birthday celebrations to occur. It is recommended that we continue with current KISD practice, as described on page 17-18 of the 2013-2014 Elementary Student Handbook.
- **Secondary Only:** All items in the student vending machines on campus must meet Smart Snacks rules and the machines will be turned on all day, or timer(s) set at the principal's discretion.