

# USDA Smart Snacks in School

## Effective July 1, 2014

### Food Guidelines

#### Nutrition Standards for Foods (per item as packaged or served)

#### Any food sold on the school campus, during the school day must:

- Be a whole grain rich grain product; **or**
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, vegetable, dairy product, or protein food; **or**
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup fruit and/or vegetable; **or**
- Contain 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of a nutrient of public health concern in the *2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber).\*

\* Effective July 1, 2016, foods may not qualify using the 10% DV criteria.

#### AND

#### Foods must also meet all of the specific nutrient standards (with accompaniments):

##### Calorie limits

Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories

Snack/side items: ≤ 200 calories

##### Sodium limits

Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg

Snack/side items: ≤ 230 mg\*\*

##### Fat limits

Total fat: ≤ 35% of total calories

- Exemptions: Reduced fat cheese (including part skim mozzarella), nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters, dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats, seafood with no added fat

Saturated fat: < 10% of total calories

- Exemptions: Reduced fat cheese (including part skim mozzarella), nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters, dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats

Trans fat: zero grams (<0.5g)

##### Sugar limit

Total sugar: ≤ 35% of weight from total sugars

- Exemptions: Dried/dehydrated fruits or vegetables with no added nutritive sweeteners, dried fruits with nutritive sweeteners for processing and/or palatability, products consisting of only exempt dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats

\*\* Effective July 1, 2016, snack/side items must contain ≤ 200 mg sodium.

#### Exemptions from meeting all nutrient standards:

- Fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables with no added ingredients except water; or in the case of fruit, packed in 100% juice, extra light, or light syrup
- Canned vegetables that contain a small amount of sugar for processing purposes
- Entrée items offered as part of the lunch program or breakfast program on the day of service or the day after service. Entrée item is either (i) a combination food of M/MA and whole grain rich food; or (ii) a combination food of M/MA and F or V; or (iii) a M/MA served alone\*\*\*; or (iv) a breakfast entrée item as determined by a school food authority (SP 35-2014).  
\*\*\*Except for yogurt, low-fat or reduced fat cheese, nuts, seeds and nut or seed butters, and meat snacks.
- Sugar-free chewing gum

Visit [www.squaremeals.org](http://www.squaremeals.org) for guidance regarding competitive foods in Texas and the Texas School Nutrition Policy.

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### Beverage Guidelines

Category	Elem	Middle	High
Plain or Carbonated Water	Any size	Any size	Any size
Low Fat Milk (1%), Unflavored	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
Non Fat Milk (Skim), Flavored or Unflavored*	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
100% Fruit or Vegetable Juice (plain or carbonated) with no added sweeteners	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
100% Fruit or Vegetable Juice, Diluted with Water (plain or carbonated) with no added sweeteners	≤8oz	≤12oz	≤12oz
Calorie-Free Beverages, Flavored and/or Carbonated ≤5 calories per 8oz, or ≤10 calories per 20oz  ** Soft Drink Prohibition per Texas School Nutrition Policy (TSNP), Section 26.10	Not permitted	Not permitted	≤20oz
Low Calorie Beverages, Flavored and/or Carbonated ≤40 calories per 8oz, or ≤60 calories per 12oz  ** Soft Drink Prohibition per Texas School Nutrition Policy (TSNP), Section 26.10	Not permitted	Not permitted	≤12oz

*\*including nutritionally equivalent milk alternatives as permitted by the school meal requirements.*

*Note: Caffeinated beverages are only permitted at the High School level.*

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