

## Smart Snacks in School

### USDA's "All Foods Sold in Schools" Standards

USDA has established practical, science-based nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The standards allow schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food.

The health of today's school environment continues to improve. Students across the country are now offered healthier school lunches with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. The *Smart Snacks in School* standards build on those healthy advancements and ensure that kids are only offered tasty and nutritious foods during the school day.

*Smart Snacks in School* also supports efforts by school food service staff, school administrators, teachers, parents and the school community, all working hard to instill healthy habits in students.

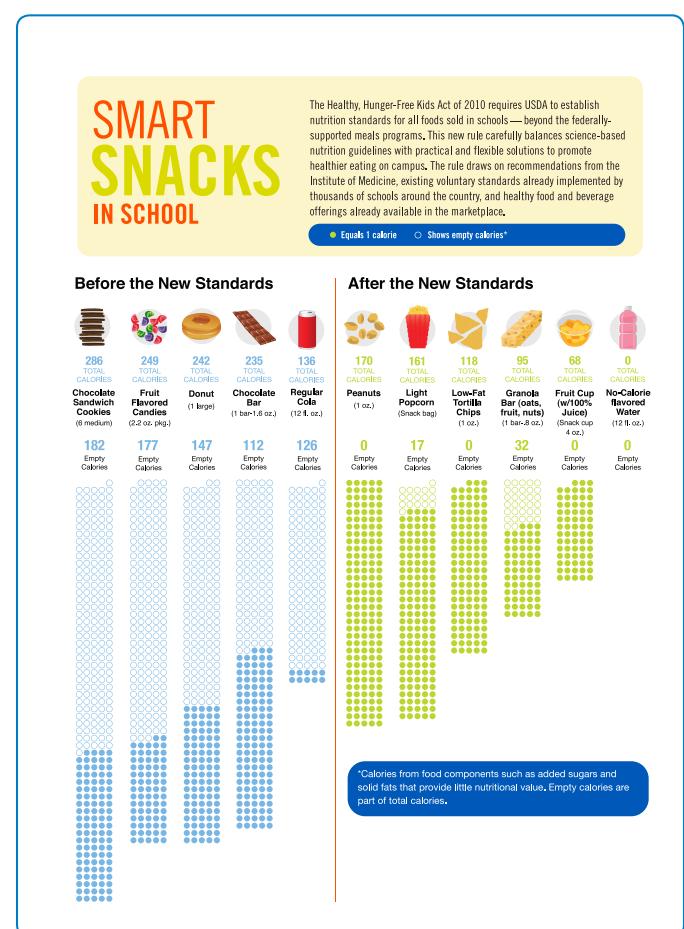
#### Nutrition Standards for Foods

- **Any food sold in schools must:**

- Be a “whole grain-rich” grain product; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food; or
- Be a combination food that contains at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of fruit and/or vegetable; or

- **Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:**

- Calorie limits:
  - Snack items:  $\leq 200$  calories
  - Entrée items:  $\leq 350$  calories
- Sodium limits:
  - Snack items:  $\leq 200$  mg
  - Entrée items:  $\leq 480$  mg
- Fat limits:
  - Total fat:  $\leq 35\%$  of calories
  - Saturated fat:  $< 10\%$  of calories
  - Trans fat: zero grams
- Sugar limit:
  - $\leq 35\%$  of weight from total sugars in foods



## Nutrition Standards for Beverages

- **All schools may sell:**
  - Plain water (with or without carbonation)
  - Unflavored low fat milk
  - Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP
  - 100% fruit or vegetable juice and
  - 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners.
- **Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions, while middle schools and high schools may sell up to 12-ounce portions of milk and juice. There is no portion size limit for plain water.**
- **Beyond this, the standards allow additional “no calorie” and “lower calorie” beverage options for high school students.**
  - No more than 20-ounce portions of
  - Calorie-free, flavored water (with or without carbonation); and
  - Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain < 5 calories per 8 fluid ounces or ≤ 10 calories per 20 fluid ounces.
  - No more than 12-ounce portions of
  - Beverages with ≤ 40 calories per 8 fluid ounces, or ≤ 60 calories per 12 fluid ounces.

## Other Requirements

- **Fundraisers**
  - The sale of food items that meet nutrition requirements at fundraisers are not limited in any way under the standards.
  - The standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events.
  - The standards provide a special exemption for infrequent fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition standards. State agencies 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.
- **Accompaniments**
  - Accompaniments such as cream cheese, salad dressing and butter must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item sold.
  - This helps control the amount of calories, fat, sugar and sodium added to foods by accompaniments, which can be significant.



United States Department of Agriculture