

Model and Sample Policies – Competitive Foods and Beverages

From [Alliance for a Healthier Generation Model Wellness Policy](#):

The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (i.e., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. [A summary of the standards and information](#)

NOTE: In some cases, states have passed more stringent nutrition standards for competitive foods and beverages in addition to the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. In these states, districts and schools must also comply with their state standards.

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day [and ideally, the extended school day] will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards [or, if the state policy is stronger, "will meet or exceed state nutrition standards"]. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, á la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, and snack or food carts.

From [Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, Model District School Wellness Policy](#):

All foods and beverages *sold* on school grounds to students outside of reimbursable school meals are considered "competitive foods." Competitive foods include items sold a la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores and for in-school fundraisers. *All* competitive foods must comply with the district's nutrition standards, as well as all applicable state and federal standards. Foods *served* as part of the Before and Aftercare (child care) programs must also comply with the district's nutrition standards *unless* they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in which case they must comply with all applicable USDA standards.

State Policy Examples:

[Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools](#)

[West Virginia Nutrition Standards for School Nutrition for §126-86-5. Nutrition Standards for Other Foods and Beverages](#)