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## USDA SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOL AND FUNDRAISING

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USDA understands that fundraisers are time-honored traditions that support local school activities, including class trips, athletic programs and the purchase of school supplies. Under the "Smart Snacks in School" nutrition standards, USDA has sought to balance the needs of schools to conduct fundraisers, while still ensuring that students have access to healthier foods and beverages during the school day.

That is why the new standards offer a significant amount of flexibility on food items sold:

- Fundraising activities that take place outside of school, such as frozen pastry, cookie dough or frozen pizza sales, are exempt from the nutrition standards.
- Distribution of order forms and foods not intended for consumption at school may continue.
- The standards do not apply to items sold during non-school hours, weekends or off-campus fundraising events, such as concessions during sporting events and school plays.
- All foods that meet the standards can be sold during fundraisers during school hours.

It is important to note that USDA has no role in regulating foods brought from home. The standards do not apply to any foods brought to school in bagged lunches, or for birthday parties and special events, including after-school bake sales and fundraisers.

USDA Smart Snacks in School is effective July 1, 2014.

### **States set an appropriate number of exempt school-sponsored fundraisers.**

- States are well-positioned to identify the particular needs of their local communities. As such, each state will have the flexibility to set a certain number of fundraisers that can sell foods or beverages that do not meet the nutrition standards.

### **Schools decide what can be sold at events outside of school hours.**

- Smart Snacks in School only applies to foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day. The nutrition standards do not apply to foods and beverages sold at events held after school, off campus, or on weekends, such as school plays or sporting events.

*Information is current as of April 24, 2014. Information obtained from USDA resources. Please see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/allfoods.htm> for the most up-to-date information. Be sure to direct specific questions to your state's Department of Education for any additional state requirements.*

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS:

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**Competitive Foods:** All food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the School campus during the School day.

**School Day:** The period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

**School campus:** All areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

**Fundraiser:** USDA considers a fundraiser to be an event that includes any activity during which currency/tokens/tickets, etc. are exchanged for the sale/purchase of a product in support of the school or school-related activities. For example, giving away food but suggesting a donation would be considered a fundraiser, since funds may be raised as a result.

**Exempt Fundraiser:** A fundraiser exempt from the Smart Snack standards because food is sold during non-school hours, weekends, and/or off-campus.

**Exempt Fundraiser Limit:** State agencies must set the frequency with which exempt fundraisers may be held in schools.

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