



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SCHOOL FOOD AND BEVERAGE POLICY

Q. What does this policy mean for schools?

A. **All food and beverages sold in schools for school purposes** must meet the nutrition standards set out in the policy. This includes food and beverages sold in all venues (e.g., cafeterias, vending machines, tuck shops), through all programs (e.g., catered lunch programs), and at all events (e.g., bake sales, sports events).

Q. Are there any exemptions?

A. The standards **do not apply** to food and beverages that are:

- offered in schools to students at no cost;
- brought from home or purchased off school premises and are not for resale in schools (**Top Fundraisers** products are purchased off site & for home use);
- available for purchase during field trips off school premises;
- sold in schools for non-school purposes (e.g., sold by an outside organization that is using the gymnasium after school hours for a non-school-related event);
- **sold for fundraising activities that occur off school premises** (**Top Fundraisers** products are purchased off site & for home use);
- sold in staff rooms.

Q. Do the nutrition standards apply to food or beverages sold for fundraising activities?

A. It depends where the fundraising takes place. The nutrition standards apply to food and beverages sold on school premises for school purposes (i.e., special lunch days, bake sales, etc.). The nutrition standards **do not apply to food and beverages sold off school premises**. This would include fundraising activities that occur in a community centre or door-to-door. (**Top Fundraisers** products are purchased off site & for home use)

Q. What about special-event days such as pizza lunches?

A. A school principal, in consultation with the school council, may designate up to ten days as special-event days on which food and beverages sold in schools would be exempt from the nutrition standards. Principals are also encouraged to consult with their students in making these decisions.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Education www.edu.gov.on.ca