

Smart Snacks in Schools Guidelines

Below are the guidelines as they stand right now. These guidelines come from the United States Department of Agriculture, Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Alief ISD wellness policy that requires us to address these issues. Please contact Monique Franklin or Kelley Sullivan if you have any questions.

Elementary and intermediate school

- Alief ISD schools will follow the Texas Department of Agriculture time and place rule that no food or beverage may be sold during the school day.
- Food and beverages may be sold after school (30 minutes after the end of the school day).
- Teachers will not give away food during the school day (as rewards, incentives, etc.).
- Each campus will be allowed two days per semester for incentive events where food or beverages may be given away and they do not have to meet the Smart Snacks guidelines.

Middle school

- Alief ISD schools will follow the Texas Department of Agriculture time and place rule that no food or beverage may be sold during the school day. This applies to vending machine sales as well.
- Food and beverages that do not meet the USDA Smart Snacks guidelines must be sold after school (30 minutes after the end of the school day).
- Teachers will not give away food during the school day (as rewards, incentives, etc.).
- Each campus will be allowed one day per month for academic or behavioral incentive events where food or beverages may be given away and they do not have to meet Smart Snacks guidelines.

High school

- Alief ISD schools will follow the TDA time and place rule that schools may not serve Smart Snacks to students during meal periods in areas where reimbursable school meals are served and /or consumed.
- Food and beverages that do not meet the TDA Smart Snacks guidelines must be sold after school (30 minutes after the end of the school day).
- Teachers will not give away food during the school day (as rewards, incentives, etc.).
- Each campus will be allowed one day per month for academic or behavioral incentive events where food or beverages may be given away and they do not have to meet Smart Snacks guidelines. If food or beverages are sold on those days, they must meet all USDA Smart Snacks guidelines.

All schools

- In addition, each campus gets **up to 6 exemption days** (that must be set up in advance) where foods may be sold that do not meet the Smart Snacks Guidelines.
- Food may never be sold inside the cafeteria where reimbursable meals are sold or consumed.

Three basic concepts for you to remember at all levels:

- Any foods sold on campus during the school day (which does not end until 30 minutes after the end of the school day) **must meet USDA smart snacks guidelines** (use the smart snacks calculator to determine if foods meet). <https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator/>
- Teachers will not give out food during the school day (for rewards, incentives, etc.), but days have been put into place at each level for campus wide incentive/rewards.
- Remember when you plan events/fundraisers on your campus that we want to promote wellness as part of our Alief belief system, so try to choose items that fit this criteria.