

Yum!

1. Does the district have an adopted policy and regulation governing which foods are appropriate at school events and which are not?

Yes, Policy and Regulation 3650, Nutrition Services. The regulation provides:

A. Because of the potential health hazards and district liability, neither the food services program nor individual schools shall accept donations of food without the express written approval of the Superintendent or designee.

B. Foods and beverages brought to school for class parties or celebrations are not considered privately donated foods. Food and beverages brought to school should be commercially purchased with the ingredient label intact.

2. What does “privately donated” mean?

This refers to food items offered to the district or school by a private individual, organization, or corporation. Usually these are bulk items such as fruits, vegetables or bread products that are not provided by a commercial vendor to the schools. The concern is that these items frequently are surplus or day-old, and may not be fully labeled and guaranteed for freshness and safety. This term does not refer to food brought to individual classes or activities. For those, please see below.

3. How can individuals, organizations or businesses donate to a school or the district?

If you are contacted by an individual farmer, restaurant or individual wishing to donate to the school, refer them to the district office. They can contact the Chief of Elementary or Secondary Education with their proposal and that individual will review the proposal with the Superintendent, and if appropriate give approval.

4. Can homemade foods and beverages be brought to a school class or school sponsored activity?

No. Although homemade foods often taste better and may be healthier, safety must be our first priority for foods served in schools. Commercially prepared and packaged foods have strict safety and handling regulations, and include a label of all ingredients. With many children having life threatening allergies, we cannot take the risk of permitting something to be served that could cause illness or death to a student.

5. Does this mean I cannot bring homemade food for staff?

The regulation applies only to students. Adult staff members are knowledgeable and capable of managing their own dietary needs, including the avoidance of foods that would be harmful to their individual health.

6. May I purchase commercial products for students at a school or district sponsored event?

Yes, the district policy allows for the provision of commercial products, so long as the ingredient label tag is intact.

7. If the event is sponsored by a private organization like the boosters, PTA, PTO or PSTA, may homemade foods be served?

Yes, when an independent organization has an event off school premises or leases school facilities through the Office Community Services, that organization is responsible for its event, including responsibility for the foods served. It may serve commercially prepared or homemade food. It is recommended that the organization post signage that includes the organization's name and states something to the effect:

Please make food choices based on your dietary needs. This food is homemade and may include ingredients that would cause allergic reactions in some people.

8. May privately donated or homemade foods be served at sports banquets, which are usually potlucks?

It depends. If the event is sponsored by a non-school organization, which holds the event off school premises, or if on premises, leases the facility, the organization determines the foods served. If the banquet is a school or district-sponsored event, neither privately donated nor homemade foods are permitted.

9. What should I do to make sure I am complying with district policy?

- A. You may always provide commercially purchased foods with the labels intact, whether serving adults or students.
- B. If the food is to be consumed by adults only, you may serve privately donated or homemade foods.
- C. If you desire to serve food for students, it must be commercially purchased foods with the label intact, unless it is part of a function sponsored by a private organization.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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