Knox County Schools is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams trans-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer’s specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children without their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Menus are written to meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. Knox County Schools offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.

The Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards are developed for foods and beverages sold or offered for sale during the school day in schools that include students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. The school day will be defined as starting at midnight before the beginning of the official school day and continuing until 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

These standards apply to food items sold or offered for sale during the school day including but not limited to school store items, a la carte items, vending machine items, and snack bar items. Schools may choose to conduct infrequent school-sponsored fundraisers that include the sale of foods or beverages that do not meet the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards; however, these specially exempted fundraisers must not exceed the allowed numbers of exemptions granted by the state agency. All school principals must document the dates of their exempt fundraisers and items sold.

School principals should consult with school cafeteria managers on any questions pertaining to the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

The Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards do not apply to foods served as a federally reimbursable meal to students.

In-school marketing for food and beverage items must only be for items meeting Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

Activities for promoting nutrition will include:

1. Taste test opportunities for students;
2. Student survey groups; and
3. Posting nutrition and health posters in school cafeterias.
To ensure compliance with this policy and policy I-441 (Wellness Policy – Physical Activity), the Executive Director of Food and Nutrition Services shall develop and implement an annual assessment to gauge progress in meeting Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards and activities to promote student nutrition.

Legal References:

1. T.C.A. § 49-6-2307.

Approved as to Legal Form 2/1/2018
By Knox County Law Director
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Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director