



Student Nutrition Services

Fundraiser Exemption Guidelines

What is considered a fundraiser?

USDA and ADE consider 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 activity. In addition, giving away food but suggesting a donation would be considered a fundraiser.

When the fundraiser includes the sale of food items that do not meet the nutritional standards, for example, a doughnut or a candy bar, the fundraiser must be considered an approved exempt fundraiser in accordance with the State agency.

Exempt Fundraisers:

- Regulations state that no exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
- Cannot be sold/served for longer than one week.
- **A school principal or designated representative of the school is permitted to submit the waiver request to ADE using this link: [Specially Exempted Fundraisers in Arizona Schools Survey](#)**
- If ADE tracking shows an excessive number of exemptions for a particular LEA, ADE will contact the LEA and discuss their activities.

Smart Snacks Fundraisers:

- If the item being sold is a nonfood item or a food item that meets the Smart Snacks standards, it can be sold anytime.
- To be considered a Smart Snack, the product must meet USDA Nutrition Standards. Use [Smart Snacks Product Calculator](#) to determine if the product meets USDA standards and save and print for your records.
- For help determining what qualifies as a Smart Snack please contact Student Nutrition at 928.502.4473 or email bhiguera@yumaunion.org