

Policy on Competitive Foods and Extra Food Sales

Federal Regulations and State Board Policy restrict food sales in competition with the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. On February 22, 1985, the State Board of Education passed the state's policy on the selling of foods in competition with the National School Food Service Programs and on the nutritional quality of foods sold as extra items. This purpose is to ensure that students are not in the position of having to decide between non-nutritious and nutritious foods immediately before or during any meal service period. Mississippi's competitive food sales policy is provided in Exhibit 3.4.

Exhibit 3.4. Mississippi Board of Education Policy on Competitive Food Sales

- No food is to be sold on the school campus for one (1) hour before the start of any meal service period.
- The school food service staff shall serve only those foods that are components of the approved Federal meal patterns being served (or milk products) and such additional foods as necessary to meet the caloric requirements of the age group being served.
- With the exception of milk products, a student may purchase individual components of the meal only if the full meal unit also is being purchased.
- Students who bring a lunch from home may purchase milk products.
- This policy should be viewed as a minimum standard. Local boards of education are encouraged to develop more comprehensive restrictions.

Clarification and/or Interpretation of Competitive Foods Rule

The State policy is clarified/interpreted below, as follows:

No food is to be sold on campus for one hour before breakfast or one hour before lunch and until the end of either serving period. Any food may be sold after breakfast, until one hour before lunch, and any time after the end of the last lunch period.

School food services shall **sell only those foods that are components of the approved Federal meal patterns being served (or milk products).** With the exception of milk products, a student may purchase individual components of the meal **only if the full meal** is being served. After the full meal has been served, a student may purchase individual components or milk products as extra food sales. **A food must be a component of the meal pattern to be sold extra.**