

Commissioner's Memo
6/17/2016

Healthy Snacks for Designated Testing Days

Memo Information

Memo Number **CNU-16-043**

Memo Date 6/17/2016

Memo Type Informational

Unit Child Nutrition

Regulatory Authority Arkansas Act 1220 of 2003; ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools

Response Required NO

Attention Federal Programs; Superintendents; Principals; Test Coordinator; General Business Manager; Teachers

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Memo Text

The May 2016 updates to the *Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools* has allowed an exception to limiting access to food and beverages in all schools on testing days.

- A testing day is defined as a school day that involves one of the state-wide programs for educational assessment, in which every student attending an Arkansas public school is required to participate as required in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-419, 6-15-433, 6-15-2009, and as established by the State Board.
- Students may be given any food and/or beverage items that meet the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Calculator requirements during the school day on scheduled testing days each school year to be determined and approved by school officials.
- Schools will need to maintain documentation that all foods and/or beverages comply with Smart Snacks requirements (by utilizing the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Calculator) including a copy of the Smart Snacks Calculator product compliance screen and a copy of the nutrition fact label of the product.

Testing days are not required to count as part of the “9 Special Event Days” identified in the Rules.

However, if a school wishes to provide snacks or treats that do not meet Smart Snacks Requirements, then the school will designate that day as one of their “9 Special Event Days” and will document that on the official school calendar in eSchool.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snack Calculator may be found at:

<https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator/>

For additional information or questions, please contact Stephanie Alsbrook, Assistant Director of Healthy Schools at (501) 324-9502 or stephanie.alsbrook@arkansas.gov.

Attachments

- [CNU-16-043--ADE_Rules_Governing_Nutrition_and_Physical_Activity_Standards_May_2016.pdf](#)