

## **Provo School District Vending Machine Policy**

***“There is evidence that unhealthy food choices, such as soft drinks, may be a contributor to the obesity epidemic in children. Schools can take on a proactive role in forging healthy food behaviors through the options that are available in school vending machines.”***

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Co-chair, Task Force on Obesity for the American  
Academy of Pediatrics.***

Principals may not sign vending machine contracts that last longer than one year without business administrator approval.

Vending machines will not be made available to students in elementary schools.

No more than 40% of the items in school vending machines may be foods of minimal nutritional value (as defined by the USDA). Foods of minimal nutritional value include carbonated beverages, popsicles (unless they contain fruit or fruit juice), gum, and candies whose primary ingredient is sugar and/or corn syrup. (See appendix for more detail.)

All vending machines that contain foods of minimal nutritional value (as defined by the USDA) must be inaccessible to students while they are eating school meals or ala carte items. Secondary school principals shall submit their plan for compliance with this regulation to the school food services director prior to August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005.

Product pricing may not discourage the purchase of nutritious foods. Nutritious foods shall be priced the same or less than comparable less nutritious foods.

The most nutritious foods shall be placed in the more prominent positions in vending machines, as machine capabilities permit. Less nutritious foods shall be less visible.

Schools may not advertise or promote foods of minimal nutritional value anywhere on school premises, except on the machines themselves and on scoreboards.

Secondary schools shall educate students on health risks associated with carbonated beverages, specifically the detrimental effects of high dissolved sugar content, carbonation, artificial sweeteners, and caffeine.

The District Wellness Committee shall meet annually to consider revising the Vending Machine Policy until the time policy revisions eliminate foods of minimal nutritional value from school vending machines.

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Appendix**

**Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value as Defined by the USDA**

Soda Water—any carbonated beverage (even water). No product shall be excluded from this definition because it contains discrete nutrients added to the food, such as vitamins, minerals and protein.

Water Ices—any frozen, sweetened water such as “...sicles” and flavored ice with the exception of products that contain fruit or fruit juice.

Chewing Gum—any flavored products from natural or synthetic gums and other ingredients that form an insoluble mass for chewing.

Certain Candies—any processed foods made predominantly from sweeteners or artificial sweeteners with a variety of minor ingredients that characterize the following types:

Hard Candy—A product made predominantly from sugar (sucrose) and corn syrup that may be flavored and colored, is characterized by a hard, brittle texture and includes such items as sour balls, lollipops, fruit balls, candy sticks, starlight mints, after dinner mints, jaw breakers, sugar wafers, rock candy, cinnamon candies, breath mints and cough drops.

Jellies and Gums—A mixture of carbohydrates that are combined to form a stable gelatinous system of jellylike character and are generally flavored and colored, and include gum drops, jelly beans, jellied and fruit-flavored slices.

Marshmallow Candies—An aerated confection composed of sugar, corn syrup, invert sugar, and 20% water and gelatin or egg white, to which flavors and colors may be added.

Fondant—A product consisting of microscopic-sized sugar crystals that are separated by a thin film of sugar and/or invert sugar in solution, such as candy corn and soft mints.

Licorice—A product made predominantly from sugar and corn syrup that is flavored with an extract made from the licorice root.

Spun Candy—A product that is made from sugar that has been boiled at high temperature and spun at a high speed in a special machine.

Candy Coated Popcorn—Popcorn that is coated with a mixture made predominantly from sugar and corn syrup.