

Competitive Food Sales Policy - Sales of Food in Competition with the School Food Service Program and Other Food and Beverage Offerings

Blue Hill Consolidated School supports good nutrition as part of a school environment that contributes to student health and encourages positive food choices and eating habits. The Board believes that nutrition influences a student's ability to take full advantage of the school's educational, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs and is, therefore, related to student achievement.

The Board also recognizes that proceeds from the sale of foods and beverages outside of the School Lunch Program ("competitive foods") are a source of funds for student activities that Blue Hill Consolidated School might not otherwise be able to provide. Additionally, providing food and beverages is a service that adds to the overall social environment of the school.

The Board has adopted this policy to govern the sale of foods and beverages on school property.

Maine Department of Education Rule Chapter 51 mandates that any food or beverage sold at any time on school property of a school participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall be part of the total food service program of the school and shall include only those items which contribute both to the nutritional needs of children and the development of desirable food habits, and shall not include foods of minimal nutritional value as defined in applicable federal regulations, except as provided for by school board policy in certain circumstances. Items shall not include carbonated sodas, chewing gum, or candy. Foods sold should be low in fat, low in cholesterol, low in sodium, have low added sugars, and contain a minimum of artificial sweeteners. Beverages will only include water, 100% fruit juice, 100% vegetable juice, and skim or 1% milk. Coffee and tea for adults may also be served.

As part of its food service plan, Blue Hill Consolidated School has decided the following concerning competitive food sales:

1. The sale of food after school for fundraising purposes will be allowed only if authorized by the school principal in advance. Items sold must meet the above defined criteria. A list of guidelines and suggested food and beverage items is available in the office upon request.
2. Vending machines whose proceeds go to an approved group or organization may be permitted at school with the approval of the school principal. Vending machines will not sell food or candy, only drinks. They will be turned off during school hours. All beverages must meet the above defined criteria.
3. Food or beverage items generally should not be offered as rewards. However, subject to the approval of the principal, nutritious foods may be offered occasionally as group rewards to reinforce positive behavior of individual students. Efforts will be made to meet the special dietary needs of individual students. Foods and beverages served in the classroom must meet the above defined criteria.

Approved: Blue Hill School Committee - January 11, 2006