

Food and Beverage in Our Schools Policy

Policy Number:	5016
Policy Owner:	Learning Support Services – School Operations and Operational Support Services - Business Services
Effective Date:	2011 December 20
Amendment Dates:	2025 May 23
EIE Review Date:	2024 September 18
Resources:	• <i>Education Act</i>, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 • Policy/Program Memorandum 150: School Food and Beverage Policy • Canada Dietary Guidelines Health Canada 2019TVDSB Healthy Schools Policy (5010) • TVDSB Food and Beverages In Our Schools Procedure (5016a) • TVDSB Supporting Students With Prevalent Medical Policy (4020) • TVDSB Supporting Students With Prevalent Medical Procedure (4020a)

1. Intent

- 1.1. This policy stipulates the food and beverages that can be sold in elementary and secondary schools in the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), consistent with the requirements of the Ontario Ministry Education Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM) 150.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **School Sanctioned Events** refers to events involving the sale of food or beverages.
- 2.2. **School Programs** refer to classroom-based programs that include the sale of food.

3. Objective of Policy

- 3.1. A healthy school nutrition environment enhances student learning and success, and promotes students social, physical and emotional well-being.
- 3.2. Schools have an important role to play in helping students lead healthier lives, including teaching students the skills to make healthy choices and reinforcing those lessons through school practices.

4. Roles and Responsibility

- 4.1. The principal, or designate, is responsible for ensuring that all food sold at a TVDSB school meets the requirements of this policy and TVDSB Procedure 5016a.
- 4.2. The superintendent of business is responsible for ensuring that the selection process and contracts with a food service provider meet the requirements of this policy and TVDSB Procedure 5016a.
- 4.3. The food service provider as selected by TVDSB must ensure they comply with this policy and TVDSB Procedure 5016a.
- 4.4. The school council and home and school association will provide their feedback on ten (10) special event days mentioned in Section 6.1 of this policy.

5. Standards for Food and Beverage for Sale in TVDSB Schools.

- 5.1. All food products or beverages sold within a school, at a school sanctioned event, and through all school programs will be healthy options that limit the amounts of fat, sugar, and sodium.
- 5.2. In addition to 5.1 all food and beverage sold in a school shall comply with the following;
 - 5.2.1. School boards must comply with Ontario Regulation 200/08:Trans Fat Standards.
 - 5.2.2. Principals must comply with TVDSB Supporting Students With Prevalent

Medical Policy and Procedure (4020 and 4020a) to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents.

5.2.3. Food and beverages must be prepared, served, and stored in accordance with Ontario Regulation 562: Food Premises, as amended, made under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

5.2.4. School boards must ensure that students have access to drinking water during the school day.

5.2.5. The diversity of students and staff must be taken into consideration in order to accommodate religious and cultural needs.

5.3. Food should always be prepared in a healthy way, using cooking methods that require little or no added fat or sodium, such as baking, barbequing, boiling, broiling, grilling, microwaving, poaching, roasting, steaming, or stir-frying.

6. Exceptions

6.1. The school principal may designate up to ten days during the school year as special-event days on which food and beverages sold in schools would be exempt from the nutrition standards outlined in this Policy and TVDSB Food and Beverage in Schools Procedure (5016a).

6.1.1. When determining the special event days, the principal or designate shall consult with the school council, the home and school association, their students, and the cafeteria food services provider.

6.1.2. When selecting the food that will be served during special-event days the healthiest options should be prioritized.

6.2. This policy will not apply to food and beverages that are;

6.2.1. Offered in schools to students at no cost,

6.2.2. Brought from home or purchased off school premises and are not for resale in schools,

6.2.3. Available for purchase during field trips off school premises,

- 6.2.4. Sold in schools for non-school purposes (e.g., sold by an outside organization that is using the gymnasium after school hours for a non-school-related event),
- 6.2.5. Sold for fundraising activities that occur off school premises and
- 6.2.6. Sold in staff rooms.

7. Monitoring and Review

- 7.1. Food service suppliers will submit a Letter of Compliance (Appendix 1) to principals confirming that the proposed products for sale in the school have been assessed and are in accordance with the School Food and Beverage Policy and Procedure (5016a.)
- 7.2. During school visits, the superintendent of student achievement will discuss with the school principal the number of special event days exempt from this policy. They will review the events that have already taken place and those planned for the future to ensure the total does not exceed 10.

8. List of Appendices

- 8.1. Appendix 1 – Letter of Compliance.

Food Service Provider Letter Of Compliance

Name of Food Service Supplier: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____ Contact Phone: _____

We/I, the above named Food Service Supplier, have read and understand the requirements of the Ministry of Education's Policy and School Food and Beverage Policy.

In consultation with a registered dietician we/I have assessed the products that we are selling in your school against the requirements of the School Food and Beverage Policy and confirm that:

- At least 80% of all food choices and at least 80% of all beverage choices offered for sale in any venue, program, or event are from the Sell Most category.
- No food or beverages will be sold from the Not Permitted for Sale category.
- The nutrient analysis for all food/beverages sold are attached.

Please send the signed Letter of Compliance to: (enter school contact information)

Signature _____

Date _____

For the full text copy of the Ministry of Education's School Food and Beverage Policy, please visit www.ontario.ca/healthyschools