

Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards and the ProStart® Program

August 2014

Q: What are the new healthy snacks rules and how do they impact ProStart schools?

A: The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) amended Section 10 of the Child Nutrition Act of 2010. The amendment requires that all food sold outside of the school meal program, on the school campus and at any time during the school day must meet the Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards.

Q: What are those standards? Where did they come from?

A: The standards are set forth in a rule titled “National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP): Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as required by the HHFKA of 2010.” The interim rule was published on June 28, 2013 and went into effect on July 1, 2014. It’s important to note that the Federal Smart Snacks standards are minimum standards. Be sure to check with your local Department of Agriculture or school district wellness officers to determine if the federal, state or local standards apply.

Q: Does this mean the ProStart curriculum will have to change?

A: No. In Memo SP 40-2014 dated April 22, 2014 the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service stated that “culinary education programs are in no way required to alter their existing curriculum” as a result of this rule. The memo also states that the Smart Snacks standards “have no impact on the culinary education programs’ curriculum in schools, nor do that have any impacts on foods sold to adults at any time or to students outside of the school day.” A copy of that memo is attached.

The standards do apply to all foods sold to students on the school campus during the school day, including food prepared and/or sold by culinary education programs.

Q: So how does this impact ProStart class fundraisers?

A: Foods sold to adults—like catering meetings and school restaurants if students are not customers—are not impacted. Foods sold off campus or after the school day are not impacted. But foods sold to students during the school day will have to meet the new standards or be covered under the “infrequent exempt fundraiser policy,” which allows for a state to exempt fundraising efforts on special, infrequent occasions.

Q: What’s the bottom line for ProStart Programs?

A: Cooking done in the classroom as part of the curriculum isn’t impacted. Food sold off campus isn’t impacted. And food sold only to adults isn’t impacted. But food prepared for other students on campus and during the school day will have to meet the new nutrition guidelines unless it’s part of a state’s infrequent exempt fundraiser policy.

For a copy of the guidelines, an issue brief on Fundraisers and other information on Smart Snacks in Schools visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/smart-snacks-school>