

**LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM  
CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
WELLNESS POLICY**

The following information is provided to clarify the policies of the board approved LPSS Wellness Policy (File: CGPI), which is mandated by state and federal regulations for all school districts. The Wellness Policy along with all of the individual regulations can be found on the LPSS website at [www.lpssonline.com/child nutrition/wellness information](http://www.lpssonline.com/child%20nutrition/wellness%20information).

**School Meals**

1. What food items are the students *NOT* allowed to bring into the cafeteria?  
*•Commercial fast foods, carbonated beverages, and any food item not in compliance with the Pennington Vending List (brought in as a competitive food or school celebration food item) are not allowed in the cafeteria.*
2. What food items are the teachers/administrators/staff *NOT* allowed to bring into the cafeteria?  
*•All of the Wellness Policy guidelines for School Meals do apply to the teachers, administrators and staff. The restricted food items for teachers/administrators/staff include commercial fast foods, food from outside vendors/venues, carbonated beverages, and any food item not in compliance with the Pennington Vending List (brought in as a competitive food or school celebration food item), which can be found at [www.lpssonline.com/child nutrition/pennington biomedical research center - school vending list](http://www.lpssonline.com/child%20nutrition/pennington%20biomedical%20research%20center%20-%20school%20vending%20list).*
3. What can a student bring in a packed lunch from home?  
*•Students are allowed to consume the lunch that is provided from home. If a teacher/administrator/cafeteria manager determines that a student's lunch is consistently incomplete, the school's Health and Wellness Team Leader should be notified.*
4. Can snacks be given students before the lunch period?  
*•No. Snack items cannot be served to students prior to the designated lunch period (LPSS Wellness Policy).*

**Competitive Foods**

5. What is the definition of a competitive food?  
*•A competitive food is any food or beverage item, other than the school breakfast or lunch, offered or sold on all school grounds beginning 30 minutes before school starts until 30 minutes after the end of the normal school day.*
6. When can a school site offer or sell a competitive food on campus?  
*•Elementary (PreK to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – a competitive food item can only be offered or sold after the end of the last lunch period (Competitive Foods Policy).*  
*•High School (9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) – a competitive food item can only be offered or sold beginning the last 10 minutes of each lunch period (Act 306).*
7. Where are competitive food items offered or sold at the school sites?  
*•School stores, school canteens, Parent Teacher Organizations, vending machines, on-site school fundraisers, departmental fundraisers, school fairs/special events, and PBIS.*

8. Does all food items offered or sold as a competitive food (in all areas in previous question) have to be from the Pennington Vending List?
  - Yes. All food and beverages outside of the school breakfast and lunch must meet or exceed the content and nutritional standards in ACT 331, along with adherence to the approved times.*
9. Do the guidelines for competitive foods apply to student incentive “bucks” used in school stores?
  - Yes. It is a food item being offered to the student.*
10. What items can be sold in the vending machines that are accessible to the students?
  - Middle – can only have items from the Pennington Vending List (Act 331).*
  - High School – can only have bottled water, no-calorie or low-calorie beverages that contain up to 10 calories per 8 ounces, beverages up to 12 ounces per serving that contain 100% fruit juice with no added sweeteners and up to 120 calories per 8 ounces, any beverage up to 12 ounces per serving that contains no more than 66 calories per 8 ounces, low-fat milk, skim milk, and nondairy milk; at least 50% of non-milk beverages shall be water and no-calorie or low-calorie options that contain up to 10 calories per 8 ounces (Act 306).*

### **Special Meals and Events**

11. Can teachers/administrators use food as a reward to students in the classroom?
  - Although using food as a reward is discouraged, all food items used in the classroom must be from the Pennington Vending List.*
12. Can teachers/administrators withhold/restrict food items from a student in the classroom or cafeteria as a disciplinary action?
  - No, including the choice of flavored milk in the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch.*
13. Do the food items served for a school celebration need to be from the Pennington Vending List?
  - Yes. The food items offered in a school celebration should meet the same established nutrition standards for food items offered or sold individually.*
14. What time does a school celebration involving food and/or beverages have to occur?
  - The time frame for a school celebration must be scheduled at least one (1) hour after the end of the last lunch period.*

### **Enforcement**

15. Who is responsible for enforcing the components of the LPSS Wellness Policy at the school site?
  - School site administrators are responsible for enforcing all of the components of the Wellness Policy at their individual school site.*
16. What are the possible consequences for violating the LPSS Wellness Policy that is guided by state and federal regulations?
  - Any violation of ACT 331, ACT 306, or the Competitive Foods Policy may result in withholding of federal reimbursement for meals served during that time period. The School Food Authority (LPSS) shall be required to reimburse Child Nutrition Services for the loss of funds. In addition, the school will lose the privilege of operating vending machines for 90 school days.*