



ARTS ACADEMY AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Important Updates Regarding Foods in Schools

The Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 prohibits schools from serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultra-processed food on the school campus during the regular school day. The ultra-processed foods also include beverages. Please review the updates below regarding foods brought onto campus:

Classroom Parties and Birthday Treats

- **State Additive Ban:** Under the **Arizona Healthy Schools Act**, schools are prohibited from *serving* or *selling* foods containing specific harmful chemical additives and artificial dyes. Even for single-classroom parties, **any shared treats or birthday snacks must be completely free of the following ingredients:**
 - Banned Dyes: Red 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, Yellow 6, Blue 1, Blue 2, and Green 3.
 - Banned Additives: Potassium bromate, Propylparaben, Titanium dioxide, and Brominated vegetable oil (BVO).
- **Pre-Approval:** Please check labels carefully before purchasing shared items, or coordinate with Food & Nutrition Services to verify that a snack is compliant before bringing it to school.

Personal Student Lunches and Snacks

- **No Restrictions on Individual Lunches:** Please note that these regulations only apply to shared foods, school stores, rewards, and celebrations.
- Parents and guardians retain full control over what they pack for their individual child's personal lunch or daily snack.

FAQ- Will I be able to bring food to my child's class for a birthday celebration?

A: Yes, but it must be pre-packaged and meet the new 2026 guidelines. Under Arizona Revised Statute 15-242 and the Arizona Healthy Schools Act, any birthday treats brought to school must be 100% free of 11 banned synthetic additives. Traditional bakery cupcakes, brightly colored frosted cookies, and standard candies are no longer allowed to be distributed on campus, unless they meet the new guidelines.

If you have any questions about specific snack brands or upcoming classroom events, please check our approved snack list or contact our Food & Nutrition Office at 623-474-2120 EXT 0716 or email us at llopez@plccs.org