Smart Snacks: State Agency Fundraising Exemption

As of July 1, 2014, schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are required to abide by the nutrition standards laid out in the Interim Final Rule on All Foods Sold In School: Smart Snacks. These standards focus on all foods sold on the school premises during the school day and are not a part of the NSLP or School Breakfast Program (SBP). This includes additional a la carte entrees, sides, beverages, items sold in vending machines or school stores, and food focused fundraisers. More information on the standards can be on the USDA Website.

The Smart Snacks standards allow state governments to develop a policy on the number of exemptions for food fundraisers that do not meet the standards. The chart on the right provides you with the number of exemptions a state will allow, with the below information detailing the entirety of a state’s policy including duration and if the number is per building or organization. SNA extends our thanks to the State Agencies that helped provide the information included here.

The information contained within this report is up to date and factual to the best of our knowledge. It will be updated as policies change.

The following 29 states will not have a policy, thus defaulting to zero exempt fundraisers: AL, AK, AZ, CA, CT, DE, HI, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MT, NV, NJ, NH, NY, NC, OH, OR, RI, TX, VA, VT, WA, and WV.

Summary of States with Exemption Policies
As of October 28, 2014

Arkansas: Nine school days (selected in advance and placed on school calendar) for all grades when the Arkansas Nutrition Standards do not apply. Information confirmed by State Agency staff.

Colorado: Three exemptions per school building.

Florida: Five exemptions for ES, but 10 days/year/campus for MS, 15 days/year/campus for HS, and 10 days/year/campus for combination schools. Fundraisers cannot take place until one hour after the last meal service, and if any part of the exchange happens on the school campus, it is considered a fundraiser.

Georgia: Thirty per year, per building, not lasting more than three days.
State Agency staff will consider additional ones on a case by case basis. Items cannot be sold until 30 minutes after meal time. (Proposed)

Idaho: Ten exempted fundraisers per year, per school site. Each fundraiser must not be longer than four consecutive days. School districts will be able to request approval for additional fundraisers from the state Department of Education.

Illinois: Two-year phased out process that is different at the ES/MS and HS level. For HS, in year one, there are 36 exemption days and nine starting in school year 2015-2016 and beyond. For ES/MS, there are nine in year one and zero starting in school year 2015-2016 and beyond.

Indiana: Two fundraisers per year per building, and they may not last more than one day.

Kansas: Each school group may have one fundraiser per semester, which shall last two days.

Minnesota: LEAs may apply for exemptions over the next few years but aim to phase out completely.

Missouri: Five per year per school building over one day.

Nebraska: Two per organization per semester lasting two days.

New Mexico: One per school, per year.

North Dakota: Three per building lasting one day, per year.

Oklahoma: 30 per school site per semester for a period of 14 days each.

Pennsylvania: Allows 10 for HS, five for ES and MS and can last one week.

South Carolina: As of October, proposed rule to allow 30 per school per year lasting three days.

South Dakota: One per school-sponsored organization per year lasting one day. Non-school sponsored may not hold exempt fundraisers.

Tennessee: 30 per year, per site.

Utah: Three fundraisers per site, per year, which can last no more than five days.

Wisconsin: Two fundraiser exemptions per student organization, per school year.

Wyoming: Five fundraisers per school, which can last up to two weeks.