



# MEMORANDUM

New Fairfield Public Schools

---

TO: Board of Education  
CC: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools  
FROM: Dr. Richard J. Sanzo, Director of Business and Operations  
DATE: June 2, 2022  
RE: Healthy Food Certification for Service Year (SY) 2022-2023

---

## **Background:**

Healthy Food Certification (HFC) under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether the district will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals.

The CNS applies to all sources of food sales on school premises at all times including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises. Districts that choose the healthy food option of HFC receive an additional 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free, and reduced) served in the prior school year.

Historically, I have recommended that the Board not participate in the Healthy Food Certification due to limits it could place on certain school fundraising activities. These limitations outweighed the financial benefit to the school lunch program, particularly in a typical pre-pandemic year when program revenues exceeded expenditures. However, given significantly higher food costs and the sunseting of the “free meal” program by the USDA at the end of the school year, an additional 10 cents per lunch will bring in valuable additional revenue to offset rising costs along with anticipated lower participation rates. Additionally, an exemption is available for both food and beverage sales outside of the school day which can alleviate any potential limitations on fundraising activities. As a result, I am now recommending participation in the HFC based on the following actions below:

## **Recommended Action:**

1) *Vote “Yes” to accept Healthy Food Certification for the SY 2022-2023*

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

2) *Vote “Yes” to allow food and beverage exemptions for after school hours and on weekends*

The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.