

APPENDIX: NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR ONTARIO SCHOOLS

Read the information on the food label – particularly the Nutrition Facts table and the ingredient list – and compare this information with the nutrition criteria outlined below in order to determine whether a food or beverage may be sold at the school.

Products in the “Sell Most” category must make up *at least 80 per cent* of all food choices and *at least 80 per cent* of all beverage choices that are available for sale in all venues, through all programs, and at all events on school premises.

Products in the “Sell Less” category must make up *no more than 20 per cent* of all food choices and *no more than 20 per cent* of all beverage choices that are available for sale in all venues, through all programs, and at all events on school premises.

Nutrition Standards for Food

All food sold in schools must meet the standards set out in Ontario Regulation 200/08, “Trans Fat Standards”, made under the Education Act.

Vegetables and Fruit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and the ingredient list on the food label. • See the section “Nutrition Standards for Beverages” for the nutrition criteria for vegetable and fruit juices and juice blends. • Food should always be prepared in a healthy way – that is, using cooking methods that require little or no added fat or sodium, such as baking, barbequing, boiling, broiling, grilling, microwaving, poaching, roasting, steaming, or stir-frying. 			
	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Fresh, Frozen, Canned, and Dried Vegetables and Fruit	<p>Vegetable or fruit is the first item on the ingredient list and Fat: ≤ 3g and Sodium: ≤ 360mg</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh or frozen vegetables with little or no added salt • Fresh or frozen fruit with no added sugar • Canned vegetables • Canned fruit packed in juice or light syrup • Unsweetened apple sauce • Some low-fat frozen potato products, including French fries • Some dried fruit and 100% fruit leathers* 	<p>Vegetable or fruit is the first item on the ingredient list and Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some dried fruit and 100% fruit leathers • Lightly seasoned or sauced vegetables and fruit • Some prepared mixed vegetables 	<p>Sugar** is the first item on the ingredient list or Fat: > 5g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 480mg</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetable and fruit products prepared with higher amounts of fat, sugar, and/or salt, including deep-fried vegetables • Some packaged frozen and deep-fried potato products, including hash browns and French fries • Some fruit snacks made with juice (e.g., gummies, fruit rolls)

Vegetables and Fruit (cont.)

	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Canned Tomatoes and Tomato-Based Products	Fat: ≤ 3g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some whole, crushed, or diced tomatoes • Some pasta sauce 		Fat: > 3g or Sodium: > 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole, crushed, or diced tomatoes that are higher in fat or sodium • Pasta sauce that is higher in fat or sodium
Vegetable and Fruit Chips	Fat: ≤ 3g and Sodium: ≤ 240mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some lower-fat, lower-sodium vegetable chips (e.g., potato, carrot) • Some lower-fat, lower-sodium fruit chips (e.g., banana, apple, pear) 	Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some vegetable chips (e.g., potato, carrot) • Some fruit chips (e.g., banana, apple, pear) 	Fat: > 5g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some vegetable chips that are higher in fat or sodium • Some fruit chips that are higher in fat or sodium

*Food high in sugars and starches (natural or added) can leave particles clinging to the teeth and put dental health at risk. Vegetable and fruit choices of particular concern include fruit leathers, dried fruit, and chips (potato or other). It is suggested that these foods be eaten only at meal times and that foods that clear quickly from the mouth be eaten at snack times, such as fresh (raw or cooked), canned, or frozen vegetables or fruit.

**Look for other words for sugar, such as *glucose, fructose, sucrose, dextrose, dextrin, corn syrup, maple syrup, cane sugar, honey, and concentrated fruit juice*.

Grain Products

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and the ingredient list on the food label. • Food should always be prepared in a healthy way – that is, using cooking methods that require little or no added fat or sodium, such as baking, barbequing, boiling, broiling, grilling, microwaving, poaching, roasting, steaming, or stir-frying. 			
	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Bread	<p>Whole grain is the first item on the ingredient list and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 240mg and Fibre: ≥ 2g</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole grain breads, including buns, bagels, English muffins, rolls, naan, pitas, tortillas, chapattis, rotis, bannock • Whole grain pizza dough and flatbread 	<p>Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White (enriched) breads, including buns, bagels, English muffins, rolls, naan, pitas, tortillas, chapattis, rotis, bannock • White (enriched) pizza dough 	<p>Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 480mg</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White breads that are higher in fat or sodium • Some cheese breads, scones, and biscuits
Pasta, Rice, and Other Grains	<p>Fat: ≤ 3g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 240mg</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole wheat or white (enriched) pasta, including couscous • White, brown, and wild rice, rice noodles, and soba noodles • Quinoa, bulgur, wheat berries, spelt, and other whole grains 	<p>Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pasta, rice, and other grains 	<p>Fat: > 5g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 480mg</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pasta, rice, and other grains that are higher in fat, saturated fat, or sodium
Baked Goods	<p>Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Fibre: ≥ 2g</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some muffins, cookies, grain-based bars • Some whole grain waffles and pancakes 	<p>Fat: ≤ 10g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Fibre: ≥ 2g</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some muffins, cookies, grain-based bars, snacks • Some waffles and pancakes 	<p>Fat: > 10g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Fibre: < 2g</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most croissants, danishes, cakes, doughnuts, pies, turnovers, pastries • Some cookies and squares

Grain Products (cont.)

	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Grain-Based Snacks	Fat: ≤ 3g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 240mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some whole grain crackers, pita chips, and flatbreads • Some packaged crackers and popcorn 	Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some crackers, pretzels, and popcorn 	Fat: > 5g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crackers, pretzels, and popcorn higher in fat and sodium • Most corn chips and other snack mixes
Cereals	Whole grain is the first item on the ingredient list and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Fibre: ≥ 2g <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some breakfast cereals, including oatmeal, some granola, and cold cereals containing fibre 		Whole grain is <i>not</i> the first item on the ingredient list or Saturated fat: > 2g or Fibre: < 2g <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some breakfast cereals

Milk and Alternatives

- Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and the ingredient list on the food label.
- See the section “Nutrition Standards for Beverages” for the nutrition criteria for fluid milk and fluid milk alternatives.

	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Yogurt/Kefir	Fat: ≤ 3.25% M.F.* or ≤ 3g <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain and flavoured yogurt, yogurt tubes 		Fat: > 3.25% M.F. or > 3g <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yogurt higher in fat, such as Balkan-style
Cheese**	Fat: ≤ 20% M.F. and Sodium: ≤ 360mg and Calcium: ≥ 15% DV*** <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheeses lower in fat and sodium, including part-skim mozzarella, light cheddar, some Swiss and ricotta 	Sodium: ≤ 480mg and Calcium: ≥ 15% DV <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most hard and soft, non-processed cheese, including cheddar, mozzarella, brick, parmesan, some feta, Monterey jack, havarti, and gouda; cottage cheese, cheese curds, and cheese strings 	Sodium: > 480mg or Calcium: < 15% DV <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some processed cheese products • Most cream cheese
Milk-Based Desserts		Fat: ≤ 5g and Sodium: ≤ 360mg and Calcium: ≥ 5% DV <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some frozen yogurt, puddings, custards, ice milk, gelato 	Fat: > 5g or Sodium: > 360mg or Calcium: < 5% DV <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some puddings • Most frozen desserts high in fat and sugar, including ice cream, ice cream bars, ice cream cakes, and ice cream sandwiches

*M.F. = Milk Fat. The amount can be found on the front of the food label.

**Encourage selection of lower-fat cheese options.

***DV = Daily Value.

Meat and Alternatives

- Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and ingredient list on the food label.
- Food should always be prepared in a healthy way – that is, using cooking methods that require little or no added fat or sodium, such as baking, barbequing, boiling, broiling, grilling, microwaving, poaching, roasting, steaming, or stir-frying.

	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Fresh and Frozen Meat	Fat: ≤ 10g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra-lean ground meat • Lean beef, goat, lamb, pork, or poultry • Some breaded chicken strips and nuggets • Some lean meatballs • Some lean hamburger patties 	Fat: ≤ 14g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lean ground meat • Beef, goat, lamb, pork, or poultry • Some breaded chicken strips and nuggets • Some meatballs • Some hamburger patties 	Fat: > 14g or Sodium: > 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat that contains higher amounts of fat or sodium, including chicken wings, bacon, pork and beef ribs • Some wieners • Most pepperoni sticks • Most beef/turkey jerk products
Deli (Sandwich) Meat	Fat: ≤ 5g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some lean deli meat 	Fat: ≤ 5g and Sodium: ≤ 600mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some lean deli meat 	Fat: > 5g or Sodium: > 600mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deli meat higher in fat or sodium
Fish	Fat: ≤ 8g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh, frozen, or canned fish 	Fat: ≤ 12g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some frozen, breaded fish (e.g., fish sticks) • Fresh, frozen, or canned fish 	Fat: > 12g or Sodium: > 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some breaded or battered fish higher in added fat or sodium • Fresh or frozen fish with a higher mercury content*
Eggs	Fat: ≤ 7g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg		Fat: > 7g or Sodium: > 480mg

Meat and Alternatives (cont.)

	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Nuts, Protein Butters, and Seeds	Not coated with candy, chocolate, sugar, or yogurt and Sodium: ≤ 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nut, legume, and seed butters, including peanut, almond, walnut, soy, sesame, and sunflower • Nuts and seeds, including almonds, walnuts, peanuts, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds (papas) 		Coated with candy, chocolate, sugar, and/or yogurt or Sodium: > 480mg <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coated nuts • Some roasted and salted nuts
Meat Alternatives, such as Tofu, Beans, and Lentils	Fat: ≤ 8g and Sodium: ≤ 480mg and Protein: ≥ 10g <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some vegetarian burgers, simulated meat strips, veggie meatballs, veggie ground round, veggie wieners and sausages, tofu and tempeh • Beans and lentils 		Fat: > 8g or Sodium: > 480mg or Protein: < 10g <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some vegetarian products high in sodium • Some meat alternatives that are higher in fat or sodium or lower in protein

*Certain types of fish may contain levels of mercury that can be harmful to human health. Fish caught in local lakes and streams may have different levels of mercury from those found in stores. Canned “light” tuna contains less mercury than “white” or “albacore” tuna, and salmon generally has low levels of mercury. See Health Canada’s website for continually updated information and a list of fish with low levels of mercury, at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/chem-chim/environ/mercur/cons-adv-etud-eng.php>.

Mixed Dishes

Note: Mixed dishes are products that contain more than one major ingredient.

Mixed Dishes With a Nutrition Facts Table			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and the ingredient list provided by the supplier. • Food should always be prepared in a healthy way – that is, using cooking methods that require little or no added fat or sodium, such as baking, barbequing, boiling, broiling, grilling, microwaving, poaching, roasting, steaming, or stir-frying. 			
	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Entrées (e.g., frozen pizza, sandwiches, pasta, hot dogs)	Fat: ≤ 10g and Saturated fat: ≤ 5g and Sodium: ≤ 960mg and Fibre: ≥ 2g and Protein: ≥ 10g	Fat: ≤ 15g and Saturated fat: ≤ 7g and Sodium: ≤ 960mg and Fibre: ≥ 2g and Protein: ≥ 7g	Fat: > 15g or Saturated fat: > 7g or Sodium: > 960mg or Fibre: < 2g or Protein: < 7g
Soups	Fat: ≤ 3g and Sodium: ≤ 720mg and Fibre: ≥ 2g	Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 720mg	Fat: > 5g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 720mg
Side Dishes (e.g., grain and/or vegetable salads)	Fat: ≤ 5g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 360mg and Fibre: ≥ 2g	Fat: ≤ 7g and Saturated fat: ≤ 2g and Sodium: ≤ 360mg	Fat: > 7g or Saturated fat: > 2g or Sodium: > 360mg

Mixed Dishes (cont.)

Mixed Dishes Without a Nutrition Facts Table			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For every ingredient used, refer to the nutrition criteria in this appendix for the appropriate food groups. • Food should always be prepared in a healthy way – that is, using cooking methods that require little or no added fat or sodium, such as baking, barbequing, boiling, broiling, grilling, microwaving, poaching, roasting, steaming, or stir-frying. 			
	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Entrées (e.g., pizza, sandwiches, pasta, hot dogs)	All major ingredients* are from the “Sell Most” category.	One or more major ingredients are from the “Sell Less” category.	Cannot be sold if prepared with any ingredients from the “Not Permitted for Sale” category.
Soups	All major ingredients are from the “Sell Most” category.	One or more major ingredients are from the “Sell Less” category.	Cannot be sold if prepared with any ingredients from the “Not Permitted for Sale” category.
Side Dishes (e.g., grain and/or vegetable salads)	All major ingredients are from the “Sell Most” category.	One or more major ingredients are from the “Sell Less” category.	Cannot be sold if prepared with any ingredients from the “Not Permitted for Sale” category.

*A major ingredient is any product that is identified in one of the food groups set out in the nutrition standards – that is, Vegetables and Fruit, Grain Products, Milk and Alternatives, and Meat and Alternatives. *All* pizza toppings are considered major ingredients.

Miscellaneous Items

Minor Ingredients	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following are considered minor ingredients and are to be used in limited amounts, as defined under “Serving Size”. • Choose products that are lower in fat and/or sodium. 	
Ingredients	Serving Size
Condiments and Spreads	≤ 15ml (1 tbsp)
Gravies and Sauces	≤ 60ml (4 tbsp)
Dips	≤ 30ml (2 tbsp)
Fats	≤ 5ml (1 tsp)
Oils and Dressings	≤ 15ml (1 tbsp)
Other (e.g., chocolate chips, coconut, olives, parmesan cheese)	≤ 15ml (1 tbsp)

Not Permitted for Sale: Confectionery (Examples)
Candy Chocolate Energy bars Licorice Gum Gummies Popsicles and freezies, if not prepared with 100% juice

Nutrition Standards for Beverages

Separate beverage standards are provided for elementary and secondary schools.

All beverages sold in schools must meet the standards set out in Ontario Regulation 200/08, “Trans Fat Standards”, made under the Education Act.

Beverages – Elementary Schools

Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and ingredient list on the food label.			
	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Water	Plain		
Milk and Milk-Based Beverages (Plain or Flavoured)	Fat: ≤ 2% M.F.* or ≤ 5g and Sugar: ≤ 28g and Calcium: ≥ 25% DV** and Container size: ≤ 250ml		Fat: > 2% M.F. or > 5g or Sugar: > 28g or Calcium: < 25% DV or Container size: > 250ml
Yogurt Drinks	Fat: ≤ 3.25% M.F. or ≤ 3g and Container size: ≤ 250ml		Fat: > 3.25% M.F. or > 3g or Container size: > 250ml
Soy/Milk Alternative Beverages (Plain or Flavoured)	Fortified with calcium and vitamin D and Container size: ≤ 250ml		Unfortified or Container size: > 250ml
Juices or Blends: Vegetable or Fruit	100% juice, pulp, or purée and Unsweetened/No sugar added and Container size: ≤ 250ml		< 100% juice, pulp, or purée or Sugar in the ingredient list or Container size: > 250ml
Hot Chocolate	Fat: ≤ 2% M.F. or ≤ 5g and Sugar: ≤ 28g and Calcium: ≥ 25% DV and Container size: ≤ 250ml		Fat: > 2% M.F. or > 5g or Sugar: > 28g or Calcium: < 25% DV or Container size: > 250ml
Coffee and Tea			All Coffee and Tea
Iced Tea			All Iced Tea
Energy Drinks			All Energy Drinks
Sports Drinks			All Sports Drinks
Other Beverages (e.g., soft drinks; flavoured water; “juice-ades”, such as lemonade, limeade)			All Other Beverages

*M.F. = Milk Fat. The amount can be found on the front of the food label.

**DV = Daily Value.

Beverages – Secondary Schools

Compare the nutrition criteria below with the Nutrition Facts table and ingredient list on the food label.

	Sell Most (≥ 80%)	Sell Less (≤ 20%)	Not Permitted for Sale
	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria	Nutrition Criteria
Water	Plain		
Milk* and Milk-Based Beverages (Plain or Flavoured)	Fat: ≤ 2% M.F.** or ≤ 5g and Sugar: ≤ 28g and Calcium: ≥ 25% DV***		Fat: > 2% M.F. or > 5g or Sugar: > 28g or Calcium: < 25% DV
Yogurt Drinks	Fat: ≤ 3.25% M.F. or ≤ 3g		Fat: > 3.25% M.F. or > 3g
Soy/Milk Alternative Beverages (Plain or Flavoured)	Fortified with calcium and vitamin D		Unfortified
Juices or Blends: Vegetable or Fruit	100% juice, pulp, or purée and Unsweetened/No sugar added		< 100% juice, pulp, or purée or Sugar in the ingredient list
Hot Chocolate	Fat: ≤ 2% M.F. or ≤ 5g and Sugar: ≤ 28g and Calcium: ≥ 25% DV		Fat: > 2% M.F. or > 5g or Sugar: > 28g or Calcium: < 25% DV
Coffee and Tea		Decaffeinated	Caffeinated
Iced Tea		Calories: ≤ 40 and Decaffeinated	Calories: > 40 or Caffeinated
Energy Drinks			All Energy Drinks
Sports Drinks			All Sports Drinks
Other Beverages (e.g., soft drinks; flavoured water; “juice-ades”, such as lemonade, limeade)		Calories: ≤ 40 and Caffeine-free	Calories: > 40 or with caffeine

*Milk can be sold in containers that hold multiple servings.

**M.F. = Milk Fat. The amount can be found on the front of the food label.

***DV = Daily Value.