

**Baltimore County Public Schools  
Office of Food and Nutrition Services**

**Operating Manual**

<b>Subject:</b> Wellness	<b>Number:</b> WEL 120
<b>Subject Description:</b> Celebrations and Rewards in the Classroom	
<b>Date Issued:</b> September 12, 2017	<b>Revised:</b> September 14, 2017

**Purpose**

To provide guidance on food offerings in the classroom to students during the official school day.

**Background**

Food given to students as a reward for good performance, achievement, or attendance connects food to mood and encourages eating when not hungry. Superintendent’s Rule 5470, *Wellness*, prohibits the use of food (as a reward) in classrooms except as defined in the general curriculum or when indicated in a student’s individualized education plan (IEP), behavior intervention, or a 504 plan. Classroom celebrations, where food is included, will adhere to the [Maryland Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School](#) that govern foods and beverages that are sold to students during the school day.

**Procedure**

A. Non-Food Rewards in the Classroom

1. The Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS) will provide non-food reward ideas for parents and others to use in acknowledging academic performance and achievement (attachment A).
2. The school wellness administration will ensure meals, foods, or beverages are not withheld as a punishment at any time during the official school day.

B. Classroom Celebrations

1. In coordination with the instructional program, school administrators with the assistance of the school wellness liaison/team, will determine the number and frequency of classroom celebrations.
  - Refreshments should complement the event or educational lesson plan and serve only healthy foods to students in providing a comprehensive learning environment.
  - All foods and beverages used in classroom celebrations will meet the same nutrition standards that are used for sale in the school meals program (competitive foods and beverages).

- The OFNS recommends using the [SMART SNACKS PRODUCT CALCULATOR](#) when determining if snacks meet nutritional guidelines for foods used in the classroom. This tool should be used for determining whether a food or beverage meets guidelines for nutrients.
  - Acceptable foods are those stable at room temperature in the original packaging commercially prepared and include product ingredient labels and nutrition serving facts.
  - Sharing of foods and beverages by students is strongly discouraged given concerns about food allergies and other dietary restrictions.
  - Students are encouraged to wash/wipe hands before and after consuming foods in the classroom.
2. The OFNS has compliant snacks available for outside sale to help students celebrate in a healthy way and may be obtained from the school cafeteria.

**References:** United States Department of Agriculture, Local School Wellness Policy – Final Rule, [United States Department of Agriculture Web site](#)  
Baltimore County Public Schools, Board Policies and Superintendent’s Rules 5470, Wellness, and 3310, Food and Nutrition Services