



Title:
Bringing Homemade Foods into the Classroom
Child Nutrition

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Page No.:	1 of 1

Introduction

Food prepared or served in classrooms is a **significant** concern of the Larimer County Health Department due to the potential for transmitting food-borne illness. To ensure student safety, only commercially prepared foods from licensed retail food establishments should be served in school buildings during school hours. When food is prepared in students' homes, non-commercial environments, and classrooms, it is difficult to ensure proper sanitation and safety practices were followed. Classrooms do not have facilities or processes in place to meet the minimum health department safety and sanitation requirements. These guidelines meet Larimer County Health Department requirements.

Colorado's State Health Department Regulations

Service of home-prepared foods and drinks are not permitted under Colorado's State Health Department regulation 3-201.11 for school food service.

- FOOD shall be obtained from sources that comply with LAW.
- FOOD prepared in a private home may not be used or offered for human consumption in a FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.
- PACKAGED FOOD shall be labeled as specified in LAW, including 21 CFR 101 FOOD Labeling, 9 CFR 317 Labeling, Marking Devices, and Containers, and 9 CFR 381 Subpart N Labeling and Containers, and as specified under §§ 3-202.17 and 3-202.18.

District Guidelines

- Homemade (non-commercial) food items, drinks, and snacks intended to be shared with others (anyone outside of their legal guardian) are not permitted in schools during school hours (e.g., classroom or school celebrations, birthday celebrations, building events, potlucks, etc.).
- If it is necessary to have food in classrooms during school hours, only commercially prepared foods from retail stores should be served. If items are not individually wrapped, an adult using a serving utensil should provide a serving to each child per all Larimer County Health Department food safety guidelines (www.larimer.org).
- Children should not be permitted to put their hands into a common container to serve themselves (e.g., popcorn from a common bowl, cookies from a common package, etc.).
- Whole fruits and vegetables can be served if their surfaces have been properly cleaned per Larimer County Health Department requirements. Fruits and vegetables processed in any form (includes sliced, cut, cooked, etc.) must be commercially prepared by a licensed retail food establishment.
- Homemade food items may be served at the discretion of the building's principal at afterschool district sponsored events where a student's guardian is present with the student and can decide if the student may eat such item. Larimer County Health Department food safety guidelines should be followed at all Poudre School District sponsored events.

Guideline Maintenance

The executive director of operations, or designee, shall maintain these guidelines.