



The Basics of the **Arizona Healthy Schools Act**

Effective at the start of the 2026-2027 school year, the Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01, prohibits public schools participating in federally funded or assisted meal programs from serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultra-processed food on the school campus during the regular school day. This resource outlines what school administrators need to know about this new ordinance.

The Arizona Healthy Schools Act **prohibits** schools from **serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultra-processed food** on the school campus during the **regular school day**.

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Defining Ultra-Processed Foods

The Arizona Healthy Schools Act defines ultra-processed foods as those with the following eleven ingredients:

- potassium bromate;
- propylparaben;
- titanium dioxide;
- brominated vegetable oil;
- yellow dye 5 or 6;
- blue dye 1 or 2;
- green dye 3; or
- red dye 3 or 40.

2

Defining the School Day

A school day, for the applicability of this law, is defined as **midnight before to 30 minutes after** the end of the instructional day.



Schools must adhere to serving foods that do not contain the 11 specified food additives in lunches, vending machines, snack bars, and school stores **during the regular school day**.

- **Please note, this ruling **does not** apply to food brought from home by students.**

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Compliance

[Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 Certification of Compliance](#)

To demonstrate and certify compliance, Local Educational Agencies must:

- Submit the [Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 Certification of Compliance](#). ADE is required to collect and publish a list of public schools that have certified compliance with the requirements of A.R.S. §15-242.01. The list will be published on July 1, 2026, on the HNS website.
- Continue to meet existing federal guidelines under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS:

- **Conduct a Compliance Audit:** Inventory all food/beverage sources on campus; compare ingredients to the banned-ingredient list.
- **Train Staff & Vendors:** Educate cafeteria, vending, store, and event personnel to identify disallowed ultra-processed foods.
- **Submit Certification:** Complete the attestation to confirm compliance status.
- **Update Community Communication:** Provide clear guidance to the public and external vendors on prohibited items.
- **Monitor Ongoing Compliance:** Review new products, fundraising plans, and third-party sales ahead of events.



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The Arizona Healthy Schools Act **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: Is the attestation available?

A: Yes. Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 Certification of Compliance is available on the HNS website <https://www.azed.gov/hns>.

Q: Is there a date Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) need to complete the attestation by?

A: Yes. School administrators should submit the certification of compliance by the start of the 2026-2027 school year, July 1, 2026.

Q: Who in a LEA will be responsible for submitting the attestation of compliance with A.R.S 15-242.01?

A: The individual responsible for submitting the attestation is a business decision for the LEA. ADE does not have specific parameters regarding who needs to submit the attestation. LEAs should keep in mind that this is a campus-wide requirement and consider who is responsible for campus-wide compliance with laws and policies.

Q: If a parent brings in food for the class (i.e. class party) do these rules apply? Or can a parent only bring in foods for their child? What about food rewards for perfect attendance, test scores, behavior?

A: A.R.S. 15-242.01 prohibits the service or sale of ultra-processed foods at any point of the school day. This includes student celebrations, birthday parties, prizes/incentives, and classroom snacks. A.R.S. 15-242.01 does not prevent a student's parent or guardian from providing ultra-processed food to the student during the regular school day.