

Celebrations, Rewards, and Food in the Classroom - Important Updated Requirements

Creating a healthy school environment that is safe for students is a priority for Spokane Public Schools (SPS). SPS [procedure 6700](#) requires staff, students, and parents to follow practices related to nutrition, health, and physical fitness. While celebrating is important, we share a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all students in our classrooms and schools during the school day.

The updated procedure requirements are:

- **Schools may hold up to three (3) classroom and/or school-wide celebrations that involve food each school year.** SPS will provide a list of healthy non-food celebration ideas on the SPS website. Please check with your child's classroom teacher on how you can contribute to these fun and time-honored celebrations.
 - Celebrations must have principal approval.
 - If **food/beverage is offered it must be unopened, commercially pre-packaged** requiring no preparation, and [Smart Snack compliant](#). It should also adhere to all relevant [allergy considerations](#). SPS will provide a list of Smart Snack approved foods and beverages for staff and parents/guardians on the SPS website under Meals/Food in Classroom. Please read all labels carefully before bringing to school.
 - The food must be served after lunch to help ensure students eat a nutritious lunch.
 - Activities must comply with SPS and Spokane Regional Health District sanitation requirements. Handwashing, using gloves for ready to eat foods, and keeping foods at a safe temperature (below 41 or above 135 degrees) are key sanitation practices.
- **No food can be provided for birthday celebrations.** Consult with your classroom teacher on how to help celebrate the birthday child without food treats (including cupcakes or candy). A list of ideas can be found on the Spokane Public Schools website under Meals/Classroom Food
- **If snacks are provided for consumption by the class, they will be Smart Snack compliant.** The above guidelines for food in schools/classrooms apply.
- **Food/beverage (including candy) will not be used as a reward/incentive** or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior. SPS will provide a list of alternate ways to reward students on the SPS website Meals/Classroom Food.

THANK YOU for helping to CREATE HEALTHY CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOLS

Good for Students! Good for Learning! Good for Life!