



Effective date: January 15, 2018

Updated: November 22, 2024

Pacific Montessori Society Food and Beverage Policy

Policy Statement

The Pacific Montessori Society is committed to aligning with the [Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools](#), which help to guide the provision of a healthy eating environment for students.

The Pacific Montessori Society has a shared responsibility with parents/guardians and the community to ensure that students develop healthy lifestyles that include a focus on healthy nutrition. Healthy, well-nourished children are more prepared to learn, more likely to attend class and are better able to take advantage of educational opportunities.

Policy Rationale

The Food and Drink Policy recognizes four key facts identified in the [Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools](#):

- Students, on an average school day, consume about one-third of their calories at school, and some of that is purchased through school fundraisers;
- Good nutrition is important for healthy growth and development in childhood and can reduce the risk of health problems in later years;
- Healthy children learn better; and
- Schools can directly influence students' health.

Policy in Full

- Pacific Montessori Society will use the Ministry of Education's [Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in Schools in BC \(revised in 2013\)](#) to help determine which foods and beverages are available to students and under what circumstances.
- This policy is intended to apply to foods and beverages **regularly** sold to students in all school locations, including vending machines, **and** the school's hot lunch program, **which must provide nutritious food and beverage options for students.**

- ~~This policy does not apply to, special events where treats and other foods may be sold, including school fundraisers, and~~ special occasions, and events sponsored by the Pacific Montessori Society and/or the Selkirk Parent Group.
- ~~Food and beverage products sold to students in all school locations and events must be nutritious food choices for students.~~
- Food and beverage vending machines are permitted in the school only with the approval of the Board of the Pacific Montessori Society.
- The Board will review food services for students annually.
- ~~Only food and beverages from the “Choose Most” and “Choose Sometimes” list (detailed in the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC School 2013) will be sold at Selkirk Montessori School.~~
- Classrooms may enlist guidelines as required.
- No peanuts or peanut derivatives are to be brought to the school or consumed on school property.

Procedures Related to Policy

The Guidelines suggest the following steps for applying guidelines at school:

- Taking stock of foods and beverages sold in the school and at school-sanctioned events.
- Scoring the food and beverage items into their “Sell” categories using the checklist for freshly made foods and the Nutrient Criteria for prepackaged foods.
- The school will commit to working with students, teachers, parents, and others to ensure that food sold to students in all school locations and through the school’s hot lunch program provide at events are nunutritious food choices for students.