



Bridging the Gap State Laws on Snack Foods and Beverages Interactive Website

<http://foods.bridgingthegapresearch.org>

Purpose of the Site

- To present easy-to-use graphical data to enable decision makers to compare and contrast on-the-books codified state laws
- To enable advocates to identify where policy opportunities exist across the states
- To provide baseline information as to where state laws stand prior to implementation of the US Department of Agriculture's forthcoming competitive food regulations

Information on the Data Compiled and Included on the Site

State Law Compilation

- Codified state laws compiled reflect statutory (legislative) and administrative laws (regulations) effective as of the beginning of September of each school year of interest.
 - Includes any policy embedded in the law or incorporated by reference
- Does not include:
 - Informal, non-codified policies, measures of implementation, guidance, etc.
 - Policies that have never been codified or incorporated by reference but may be fully operational within the state
 - Policies that can be elected to be instituted at the district level (reflected in district-level coding) such as state standards that are voluntary for school districts to adopt

State Law Compilation (continued)

- State laws compiled through primary legal research using Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw
- Verified against available secondary sources including:
 - National Association of State Boards of Education: [State School Health Policy Database](#)
 - National Conference of State Legislatures: [Childhood Obesity- Update of Legislative Policy Options](#)
 - National Cancer Institute: [Classification of Laws about School Students](#)
 - Trust for America's Health: [F as in Fat](#) reports
 - Yale University Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity: [Legislation Database](#)
 - Future data will also will be compared to the [School Health Policy Matrix](#) (new from NASBE, NACDD, AAPHRD)

Coding of the State Laws

- All laws coded using adaptation of ordinal coding scheme
 - Schwartz MB, Lund AE, Grow HM et al. A comprehensive coding system to measure the quality of school wellness policies. Journal of the American Dietetic Association 2009 July;109(7):1256-62.
- Each state's law coded separately for each grade level
- Each state's law coded as being effective as of the beginning of September of each school year of interest, inclusive of school years 2006-07 through SY 2012-13

State Law Topics

Overarching Topics (Not Differentiated by Location of Sale)

1. Snack food and beverage guidelines for all foods/beverages sold at school
2. Snack food ban
3. Contract compliance with nutrition standards
4. Fast food ban
5. Meets IOM fruit and vegetable and/or whole grain standards for school snack food items
6. Provisions for sale of whole, unprocessed and fresh food in snack food venues
7. Limitations on using food as a reward for good behavior or withholding food as punishment for poor behavior
8. Nutrition information/labeling requirements
9. Provision of free drinking water throughout the school

Topics Coded Separately for Each Location of Sale*

1. Limits on sugar content of foods
2. Limits on candy sales/offering
3. Limits on fat content of foods
4. Limits on trans fats
5. Limits on sodium content
6. Limits on calorie content of foods
7. Limits on sugar content of beverages
8. Limits on calorie content per beverage serving
9. Prohibitions/restrictions on regular soda
10. Prohibitions/restrictions on other sugar sweetened beverages
11. Limits on sugar/calorie content of milk
12. Limits on fat content of milk
13. Limits on beverages serving sizes
14. Limits on caffeine content of beverages

*Six Locations: vending machines, school stores, a la carte lines, classroom parties, fundraisers, and evening/community events (latter only through SY 11-12)

State Law Citations and Related Material

YEAR 7 [2012-2013SY] State-Level Wellness Policy

COLORADO: 31 Statutes + 4 Regulations

Nutrition Education

- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-101
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-103
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-104
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-105
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-110
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-136

US Variables

- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-5-120
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-11-503
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-136
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.6-101
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.6-102
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.6-103
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.6-104
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.7-102
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.7-103
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.9-103
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-82.9-104

Nutrition Guidelines

- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-134.5
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-136
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-136.3—new year 7
- 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-3
- 1 Colo. Code Regs § 301-79
- 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 302-2

Physical Education/Physical Activity

- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-7-407
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-7-1005
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-102
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-25-106
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-118
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-136
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-136.5
- Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 29-7-102

State law data, codebook, and coversheets will be available in coming weeks

- Includes categorical listing of all laws reviewed and coded in each state
- To be notified when state law data becomes available, please e-mail:

info@bridgingthegapresearch.org

Underlined laws were coded for Bridging the Gap Wellness Policy Project

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Website Overview

<http://foods.bridgingthegapresearch.org>

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State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

HOME EXPLORE DATA STATE PROFILES ABOUT

Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages Vary Widely from State to State

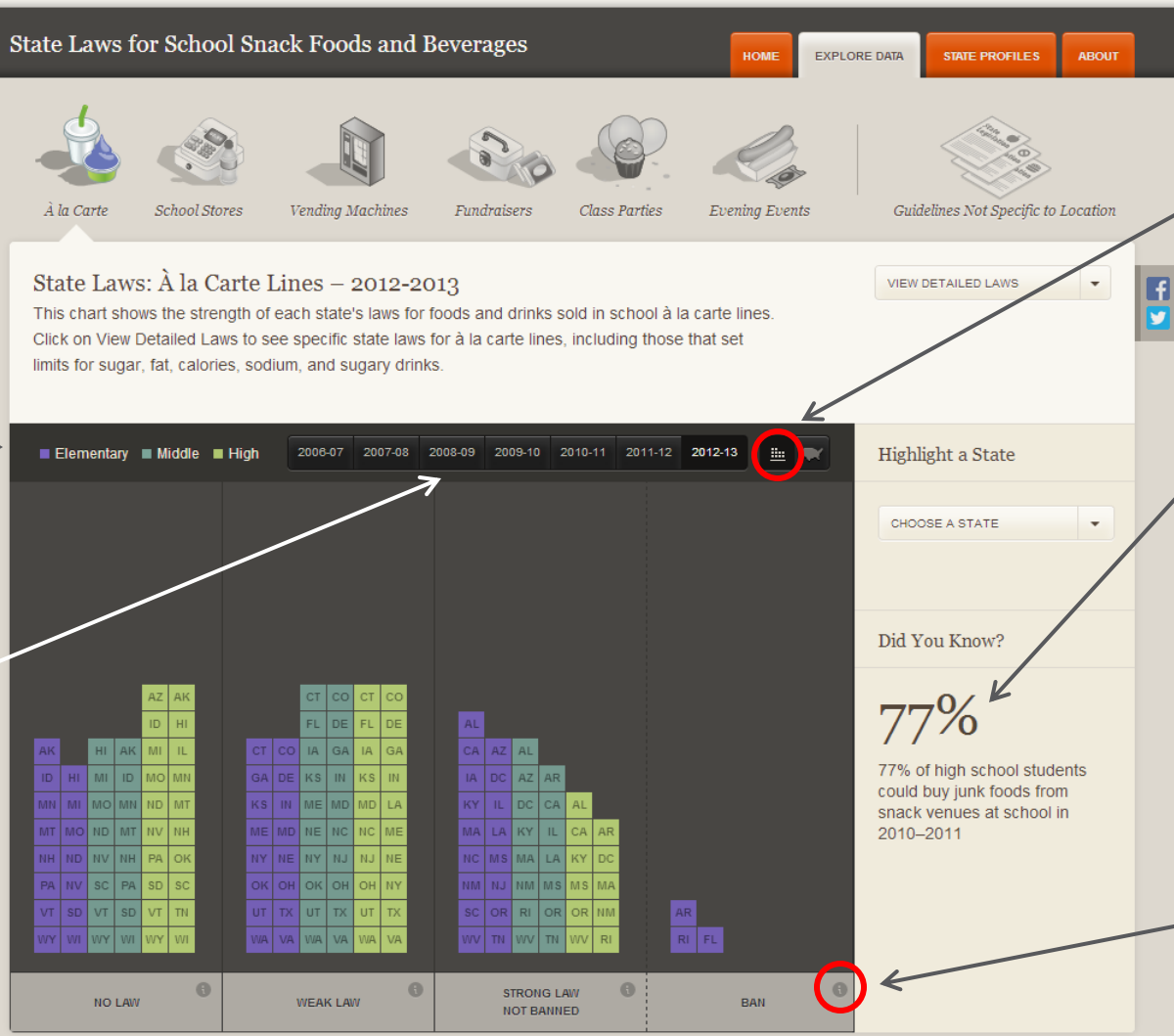
Many of the snack foods and drinks schools offer outside of meals are unhealthy, and each state sets its own nutrition standards for what's sold in schools. This site has the most extensive data about laws for school snack foods and beverages in every state for each location of sale.

<p>À la Carte Lines Many schools sell foods and drinks in the cafeteria during lunch that are not part of the meal program. Fries, pizza, ice cream, chips, fruit, and cookies are commonly offered.</p> <p>EXPLORE STATE LAWS ▶</p>	<p>School Stores Many schools, especially middle and high schools, have stores and snack bars where students can buy foods and drinks.</p> <p>EXPLORE STATE LAWS ▶</p>	<p>Vending Machines Vending machines are often found in multiple locations, including in the cafeteria and the hallways, near student lounges, and outside near athletic areas.</p> <p>EXPLORE STATE LAWS ▶</p>	<p>Fundraisers Schools engage in a variety of fund-raising activities and many involve selling candy, sugary drinks, baked goods, or other unhealthy fare at school or in the community.</p> <p>EXPLORE STATE LAWS ▶</p>	<p>Class Parties and Celebrations Cookies, candies, cakes, and other unhealthy items are typically offered at class parties and are a primary source of snack foods for elementary school students.</p> <p>EXPLORE STATE LAWS ▶</p>	<p>Evening and Community Events Many schools sell or serve foods and drinks outside of regular school hours, including during sports activities, special events, and PTA meetings.</p> <p>EXPLORE STATE LAWS ▶</p>
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This site is a project of Bridging the Gap, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It was created with assistance from the Center for Digital Information.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Explore Data: Bar Chart View



Data is presented as a bar graph

Grade levels of applicability

Data is available for SY's '06-'07 through '12-'13

Factoids from BTG reports

Clicking on the information symbol will provide the user with an explanation of each category of law (next slide)

Explanation of Laws

State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

State Laws: À la Carte Lines – 2012-2013

This chart shows the strength of each state's laws for foods and drinks sold in school à la carte lines. Click on View Detailed Laws to see specific state laws for à la carte lines, including those that set limits for sugar, fat, calories, sodium, and sugary drinks.

À la carte: No law or provision

'No law or provision' was defined as:

- Any of the following:
 - No mention of school store regulations or umbrella statement regulating "all foods" or "competitive foods"
 - Efforts to minimize sale of foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNVs)
 - States likelihood meet the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
 - Mentions regulating food/beverages in à la carte lines/all foods and beverages without specifying guidelines or mentions plans to create guidelines

EXAMPLES

"Districts shall monitor all food and beverages sold or served to students, including those available outside of the federally regulated child nutrition programs. (S. 8, à la carte, vending, student stores, rewards, fundraising, etc.)"

"Should strive to sell only healthy foods in à la carte lines"

62%

62% of middle school students could buy a salad from snack venues at school in 2010-2011

No law

State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

State Laws: À la Carte Lines – 2012-2013

This chart shows the strength of each state's laws for foods and drinks sold in school à la carte lines. Click on View Detailed Laws to see specific state laws for à la carte lines, including those that set limits for sugar, fat, calories, sodium, and sugary drinks.

À la carte: Weak law

'Weak law' was defined as:

- Regulations specific to à la carte lines or umbrella statement regulating "all (competitive) foods" is vague, suggested, time- or location-specific, subject to principal's discretion, or weakened by other exceptions
- The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and no other standards are mentioned to regulate à la carte lines or "all (competitive) foods"
- Restrictions only apply to a very limited group of foods (e.g., prohibiting foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNVs) in à la carte lines)
- Restrictions only apply to a "range of food and/or beverage items or a limited set of items (e.g., fat content and soda)

EXAMPLES

"à la carte lines shall include items which are healthy."

"à la carte lines shall be unlogged during lunch hour."

"foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNVs) shall not be sold on school grounds at any time."

"food and beverage sales in à la carte lines will support healthy eating."

"all food and beverages sold will strive to support the state's healthy eating guidelines."

"The sale of food items during the school day shall be restricted to"

62%

62% of middle school students could buy a salad from snack venues at school in 2010-2011

Weak law

State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

State Laws: À la Carte Lines – 2012-2013

This chart shows the strength of each state's laws for foods and drinks sold in school à la carte lines. Click on View Detailed Laws to see specific state laws for à la carte lines, including those that set limits for sugar, fat, calories, sodium, and sugary drinks.

À la carte: Strong (required but not banned) law

'Strong (required but not banned) law' was defined as:

Specifically restricts food/beverage items that may be sold in à la carte lines or umbrella statement regulating "all (competitive) foods."

To be counted at this level, law must meet one of the following:

- Regulate nutritional quality of each individual item sold (e.g., regulating maximum calorie, sugar, and saturated fat content of ALL items sold) OR
- Provide a specific and restricted list of food items allowed to be sold in à la carte lines or at all times (e.g., limiting vending to only water, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and nuts) OR
- Prohibit a comprehensive list of category foods (e.g., "baked" goods, "sweetened beverages, and candy) in à la carte lines or at all times

EXAMPLES

Foods sold through à la carte lines shall be limited to water, 100% juice, and fresh fruits and/or vegetables."

"All items sold through à la carte lines shall contain no more 20% of total calories from fat and sugars and no trans fats."

62%

62% of middle school students could buy a salad from snack venues at school in 2010-2011

Strong law

State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

State Laws: À la Carte Lines – 2012-2013

This chart shows the strength of each state's laws for foods and drinks sold in school à la carte lines. Click on View Detailed Laws to see specific state laws for à la carte lines, including those that set limits for sugar, fat, calories, sodium, and sugary drinks.

À la carte: Ban

'Ban' was defined as:

Bans à la carte lines and/or bans all competitive food/beverage sales during the school day except for water sales.

EXAMPLES

"The sale of F&B is limited to F&B sold through the school meal program."

"à la carte lines are prohibited on school grounds."

"No competitive foods or beverages may be sold during the school day."

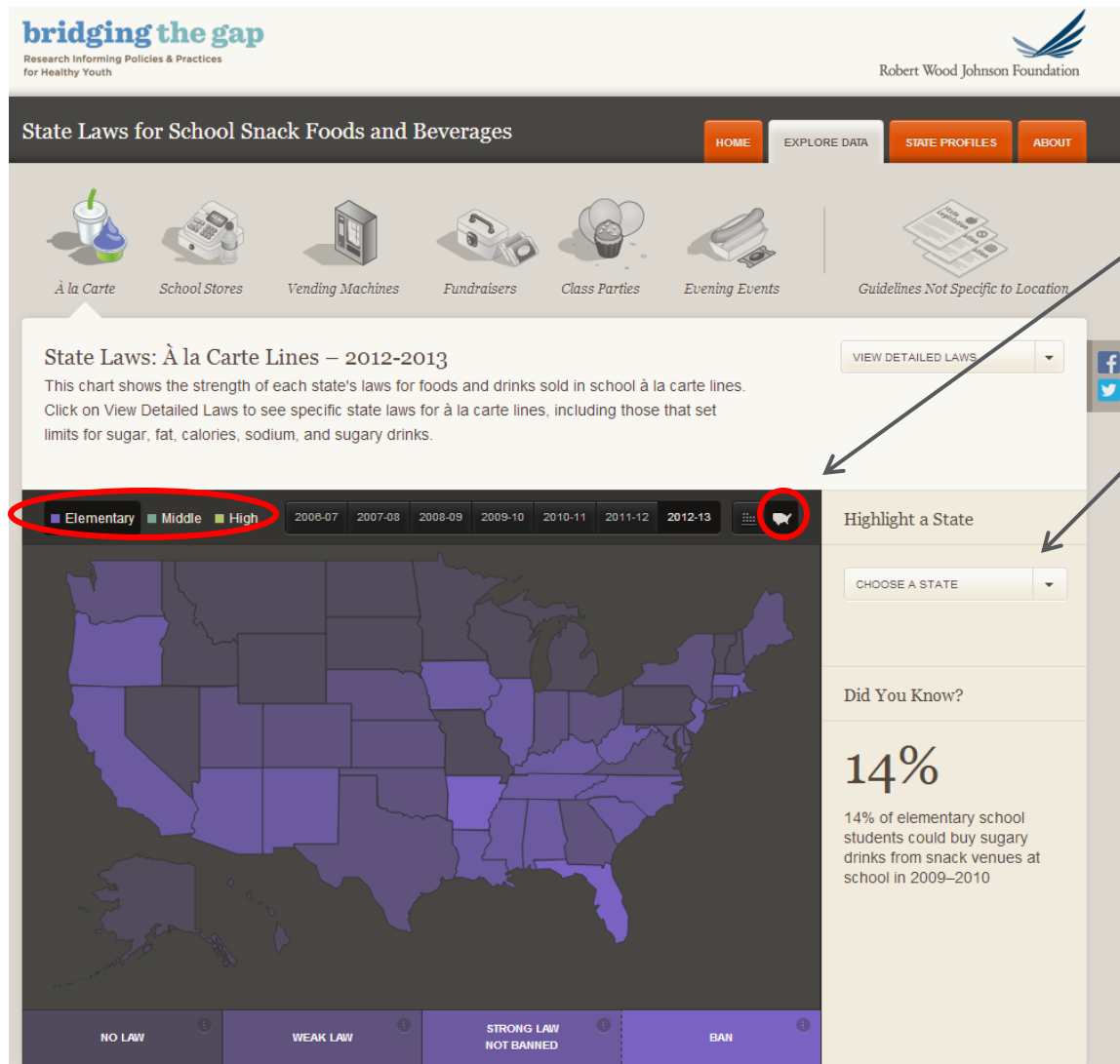
"Only water is allowed to be sold in à la carte lines."

62%

62% of middle school students could buy a salad from snack venues at school in 2010-2011

Ban

Explore Data: Map View



Click for a map view of grade level-specific data

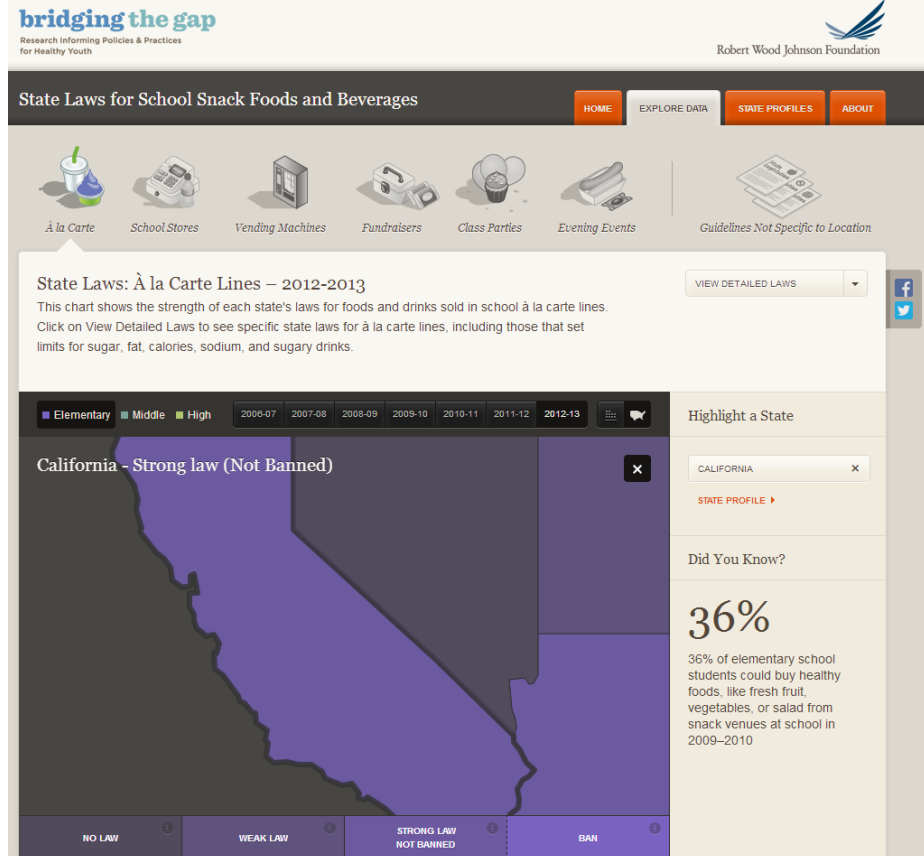
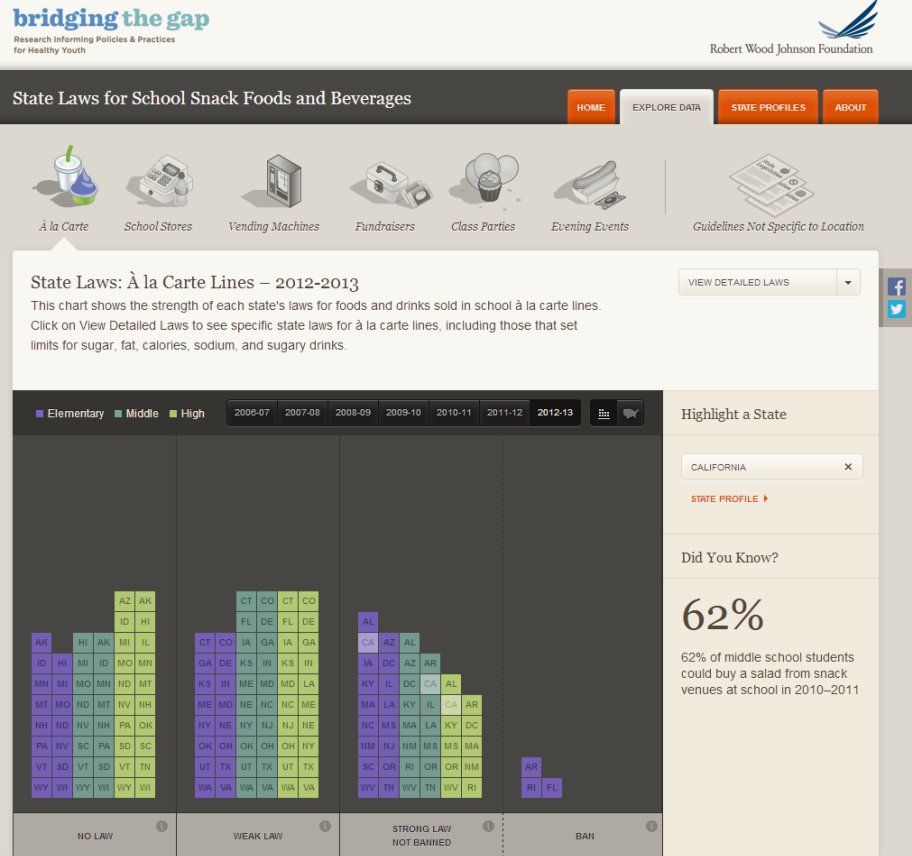
Data is presented as a map

Users can choose a state from the drop down menu to view the strength of its laws for a particular point of sale (next slide)

Explore Data: By State

Graph View: California, SY 12-13

Map View: California, SY 12-13



Explore Data: Detailed Laws



Explore Data: Detailed Laws

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State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

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À la Carte School Stores Vending Machines Fundraisers Class Parties Evening Events Guidelines Not Specific to Location

State Laws: À la Carte Lines – 2012-2013 VIEW DETAILED LAWS


Candy limits (foods)
Limits the sale of candy sold in à la carte lines

Elementary Middle High 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 Highlight a State CHOOSE A STATE


Law Type	States
NO LAW	1
WEAK LAW	1
STRONG LAW NOT BANNED	1
BAN	1

Did You Know?
63%
63% of middle school students could buy sugary drinks from snack venues at school in 2010–2011

Explore Data: Guidelines Not Specific to Location




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À la Carte




School Stores




Vending Machines




Fundraisers



Class Parties



Evening Events



Guidelines Not Specific to Location

Guidelines or Requirements for All Snack Foods – 2012-2013

This chart shows the strength of laws in each state that provide guidelines or requirements for all snack foods and/or drinks, regardless of location. Use the icons to view more laws, including those related to fast-food and free drinking water.

Elementary
Middle
High

2006-07
2007-08
2008-09
2009-10
2010-11
2011-12
2012-13

NO LAW			WEAK LAW			STRONG LAW		
HI	AK		CO	GA	DE	AZ	AR	AL
MN	MI	ID	DE	CT	KS	FL	DC	CA
ID	MT	MO	NC	ME	MD	IN	IA	IA
ND	MT	ND	NC	ME	MD	DC	CA	CA
PA	PA	SD	NY	NH	NE	MA	LA	LA
VT	VT	VT	VA	UT	OK	AR	AR	AR
						AL	AL	AL

Highlight a State

CHOOSE A STATE

▼

Did You Know?

65%

65% of high school students were in a district or school that had an exclusive beverage contract in place in 2010–2011

Explore Data: Guidelines Not Specific to Location

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À la Carte School Stores Vending Machines Fundraisers Class Parties Evening Events Guidelines Not Specific to Location

FREE DRINKING WATER

Provide Free Drinking Water – 2012-2013

This chart shows the strength of laws requiring free drinking water to be made available on-campus throughout the school day. Use the icons to explore more state laws that are not specific to location, including those related to fast-food sales and providing nutrition information.

Elementary Middle High

2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AZ	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
AL	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
AK	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
CA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
DC	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
CT	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
GA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
FL	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
DE	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
IA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
ID	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
IL	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
IN	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
KS	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
LA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MD	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MI	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MO	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MN	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MS	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
MT	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
NC	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
ND	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
NE	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
NH	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
NJ	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
NM	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
NV	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
OH	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
OK	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
OR	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
PA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
RI	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
SC	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
SD	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
TN	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
TX	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
UT	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
VA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
VT	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
WA	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
WI	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
WV	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
WY	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak

NO LAW WEAK LAW STRONG LAW

Highlight a State

CHOOSE A STATE

Did You Know?

49%

49% of middle school students were in a district or school that had an exclusive beverage contract in place in 2010–2011

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State Profiles

Select a State

<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alaska</i>	<i>Arizona</i>	<i>Arkansas</i>
<i>California</i>	<i>Colorado</i>	<i>Connecticut</i>	<i>Delaware</i>
<i>District of Columbia</i>	<i>Florida</i>	<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Hawaii</i>
<i>Idaho</i>	<i>Illinois</i>	<i>Indiana</i>	<i>Iowa</i>
<i>Kansas</i>	<i>Kentucky</i>	<i>Louisiana</i>	<i>Maine</i>
<i>Maryland</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>	<i>Michigan</i>	<i>Minnesota</i>
<i>Mississippi</i>	<i>Missouri</i>	<i>Montana</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>Nevada</i>	<i>New Hampshire</i>	<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>New Mexico</i>
<i>New York</i>	<i>North Carolina</i>	<i>North Dakota</i>	<i>Ohio</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>Oregon</i>	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>Rhode Island</i>
<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>South Dakota</i>	<i>Tennessee</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>Utah</i>	<i>Vermont</i>	<i>Virginia</i>	<i>Washington</i>
<i>West Virginia</i>	<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>Wyoming</i>	



Pick a state to view a full profile of its laws → (next slide)

State Profiles: Example – District of Columbia, SY 12-13

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State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

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CHANGE STATE

Competitive Food Laws in District of Columbia – 2012-2013

This table shows the strength of laws in District of Columbia that regulate foods and drinks offered in school à la carte lines, vending machines, and other venues. It includes laws that set limits for sugar, fat, calories, sodium, and sugary drinks.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
À la Carte Lines							
FOOD STANDARDS							
Sugar content							
Candy limits							
Fat content							
Trans fat limits							
Sodium content							
Calorie content per serving size							
BEVERAGE STANDARDS							
Sugar content							
Calorie content							
Regular sugar-sweetened soda							
Beverages other than regular soda							
Sugar/calorie content of milk							
Fat content of milk							
Serving size limit							
Caffeine content							
School Stores							
FOOD STANDARDS							
Sugar content							
Candy limits							
Fat content							

À LA CARTE LINES
SCHOOL STORES
VENDING MACHINES
FUNDRAISERS
CLASS PARTIES AND CELEBRATIONS
EVENING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
GUIDELINES OR REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SNACK FOODS

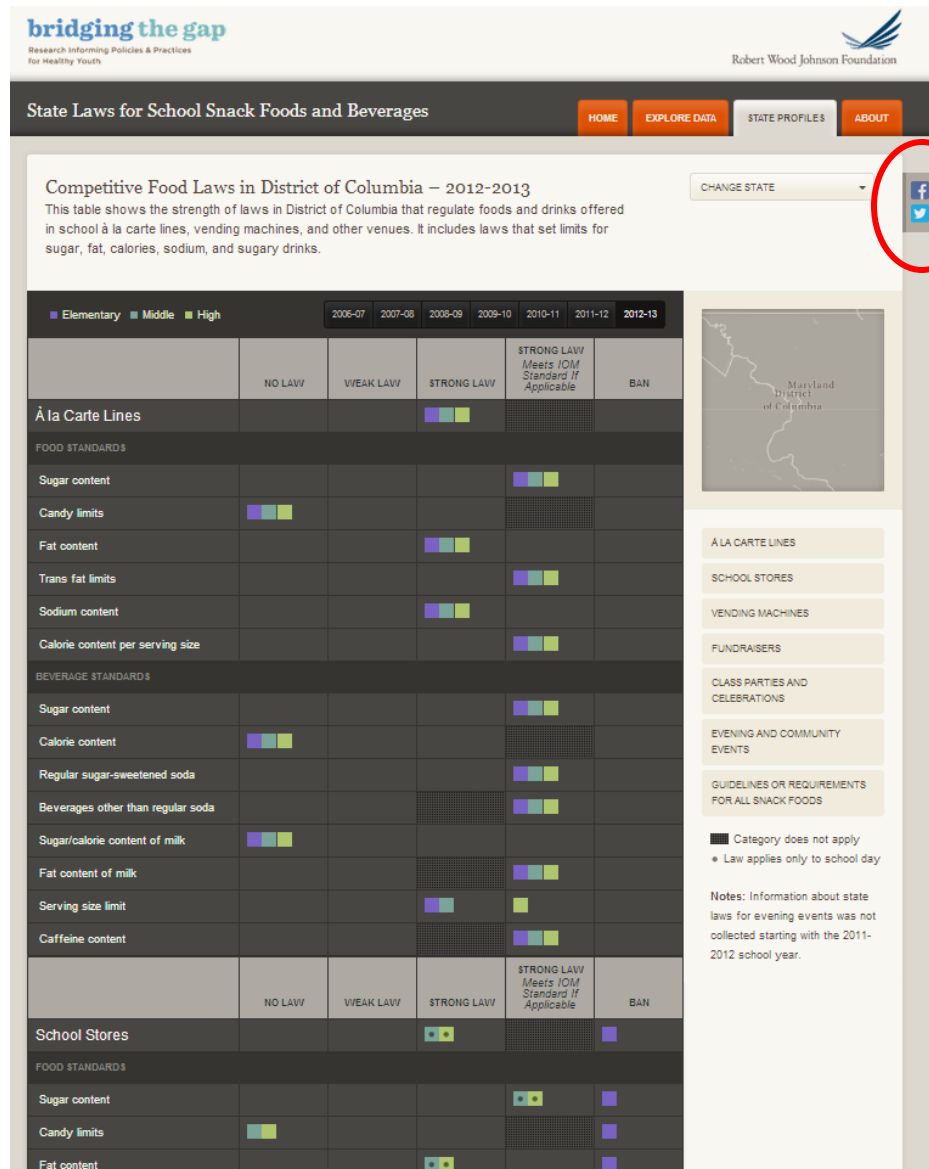
Category does not apply
Law applies only to school day

Notes: Information about state laws for evening events was not collected starting with the 2011-2012 school year.

Use the drop down menu to view another state's profile


Users can select a specific location of sale or scroll down the page to see them all listed

State Profiles: Example – District of Columbia, SY 12-13



Use the social media buttons located on each page to share data and findings on Facebook and Twitter (next slide)

Sample Social Media Material Generated

 Share on Facebook

Share on your timeline ▾


Say something about this...

Bridging the Gap | State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

Many of the snack foods and drinks schools offer outside of meals are unhealthy, and each state sets its own nutrition standards for what's sold in schools. This site has the most extensive data about laws for school snack foods and beverages in every state for each location of sale.

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State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

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ABOUT

About School Snack Foods and Beverages

Most schools sell snack foods and beverages in vending machines, à la carte cafeteria lines, stores, or other venues that compete with school meal programs for students' spending. School snacks are often high in fat, cholesterol, calories, sugar, and/or salt. Many schools also sell unhealthy drinks to students, including high-fat milks and sugar-sweetened beverages, such as soda, sports drinks, and high-calorie fruit drinks. Studies show that kids eat less of their lunch, take in fewer nutrients, and gain weight when schools sell unhealthy snacks and beverages.

In summer 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture updated nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold in school vending machines, stores, and à la carte lines. The standards will go into effect at the beginning of the 2014-15 school year. Evidence shows that policies governing school snacks and beverages impact children's diets and their risk for obesity.

About the Site

This site has the most extensive data about laws for school snack foods and beverages in every state, from bans on soda in elementary schools to limits on the fat content of snacks in high schools. Researchers analyzed codified state statutory (legislative) and administrative (regulatory) laws in every state to determine the overall strength or weakness of the laws:

- for seven school years, from 2006–07 to 2012–13;
- applicable to elementary, middle, and high schools, respectively;
- for six locations of sale: vending machines, school stores, à la carte lines in the cafeteria, classroom parties, fundraisers, and evening/community events; and for laws that were not differentiated by location of sale, such as laws that require schools to provide free drinking water.

This site is a project of [Bridging the Gap](#), a program of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#). It was created with the assistance of the [Center for Digital Information](#).



About: Methodology

Methodology

Bridging the Gap — State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages, Methods Overview

State Policy Collection

Codified state laws compiled for this study reflect statutory (legislative) and administrative laws (regulations) effective as of the beginning of September (~first week) of each school year (SY) of interest. For purposes of this study, state was defined to include the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The state laws were compiled through primary legal research by Bridging the Gap (BTG) researchers using commercially available legal research databases available by subscription from Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. For some topics/items, secondary sources also compile information on state laws.[1] In all cases where secondary source information is available, we have verified our collection and coding against the secondary sources.

Policy Coding

All state laws related to school snack foods and beverages were coded using a BTG adaptation of an ordinal coding scheme originally created by Schwartz et al.[2] We have adapted the coding scheme to be used at the state level, to add in additional variables of interest to BTG, as well as to code every variable separately for each grade level of interest. Separate documentation on the coding scheme, coding protocols/decision rules is available from BTG. The state law coding directly corresponds with the district wellness policy coding presented elsewhere.[3]

Each state's law was 100% double-coded by two trained Master's-level coders. A final consensus coding was applied to each variable.

Policy Coding by Grade Level

Because the state laws for school snack foods and beverages vary by grade level, each state's law is coded separately for each grade level of interest (ES, MS, HS). For K-12 districts, there are separate cases for each grade level of interest (ES, MS, HS). For K-8 districts, there are two coded cases (ES, MS) with the HS case not being coded. As such, there are multiple cases per state for each year of interest.

Policy Coding by Year

Separate cases represent each school year (SY) of interest. For purposes of this study, the state laws are coded as being effective as of the beginning of September (within the first week) of each SY of interest.

Year 1: SY 2006-07
Year 2: SY 2007-08
Year 3: SY 2008-09
Year 4: SY 2009-10
Year 5: SY 2010-11
Year 6: SY 2011-12
Year 7: SY 2012-13

Policy Coding Topics

For each state, grade level of applicability, and SY, 29 separate snack food and beverage items are coded. For each of six locations of sale (vending machines, school stores, à la carte lines in the cafeteria, classroom parties, fundraisers, and evening/community events), there are 14 separate snack food or beverage restrictions coded. The following table summarizes the topics that are coded. Separate documentation on the coding scheme, coding protocols/decision rules is available from BTG.

Overarching Topics (Not Differentiated by Location of Sale)

1. Snack food and beverage guidelines for all foods/beverages sold at school
2. Snack food ban
3. Contract compliance with nutrition standards
4. Fast food ban
5. Meet Institute of Medicine fruit and vegetable and/or whole grain standards for school snack food items
6. Provisions for sale of whole, unprocessed and fresh food in snack food venues
7. Limitations on using food as a reward for good behavior or withholding food as punishment for poor behavior
8. Nutrition information/labeling requirements
9. Provision of free drinking water throughout the school

Topics Coded Separately for Each Location of Sale*

1. Limits on sugar content of foods^A
2. Limits on candy sales/offering
3. Limits on fat content of foods^A
4. Limits on trans fats^A
5. Limits on sodium content^A
6. Limits on calorie content of foods^A
7. Limits on sugar content of beverages^{A+}
8. Limits on calorie content per beverage serving
9. Prohibitions/restrictions on regular soda^A
10. Prohibitions/restrictions on other sugar-sweetened beverages^{A+}
11. Limits on sugar/calorie content of milk^A
12. Limits on fat content of milk^{A+}
13. Limits on beverage serving sizes^A
14. Limits on caffeine content of beverages^{A+}

* Six Locations: vending machines, school stores, à la carte lines in the cafeteria, classroom parties, fundraisers, and evening/community events

For all of the topics, the laws are coded on a continuum: no law, weak (suggested/encouraged) law, or strong (required) law. For each of the 6 locations of sale and the 14 items coded for each location of sale, the BTG adaptation of the coding scheme breaks out the "strong" law category to differentiate required provisions (e.g., ban on sodas) from complete bans on the location of sale (e.g., vending machines), snack foods altogether, or snack beverages altogether. Additionally, for 12 of the items (all denoted with an ^A in the above table), the "strong" category differentiates whether the law meets the Institute of Medicine's (IOM;2007) standards for school snack foods and beverages[4] from a weaker requirement that is less than the IOM standard. In four of the beverage items, the only "strong" category other than the complete ban is the IOM restriction (denoted by a + in the above table).

For More Information

State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

<http://foods.bridgingthegapresearch.org/>

Bridging the Gap Program

<http://www.bridgingthegapresearch.org/>

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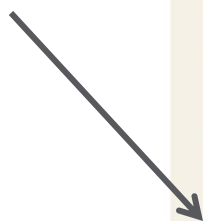
Interactive Website: State Laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages

Data can be organized by state, school year, grade level, location of sale, and by specific nutritional standards.

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Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is a nationally recognized research program. Our goal is to improve the understanding of how policies and environmental factors affect diet, physical activity and obesity among youth, as well as youth tobacco use.

What We Do

- Identify the policy and environmental factors that have the greatest impact on diet, physical activity, obesity and tobacco use among youth.
- Track trends and changes in these factors over time at the state, community and school levels.
- Disseminate findings to help advance solutions for reversing the childhood obesity epidemic and preventing young people from smoking.

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Quick Fact - 3/4 of elementary schools are in states/districts that do not ban candy or soda in classroom parties. [ow.ly/OuZ](#)

Bridging the Gap @BTGresearch 16 Jan



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