

Food Served at School (not from the cafeteria)

The California Health and Safety Code, Section 114021-114023 state the following:

- 114021.** (a) Food shall be obtained from sources that comply with all applicable laws.
(b) Food stored or prepared in a private home shall not be used or offered for sale in a food facility.
- 114023.** Food in a hermetically sealed container shall be obtained from a food processing plant that is regulated by the food regulatory agency that has jurisdiction over the plant.

So, basically, what this means is that food prepared in private homes cannot be served to students at school during the school day. Food that is brought to school for special treats and parties, must be purchased from a facility where the food was prepared in a licensed and inspected kitchen and be in the sealed container it was purchased in.

It is however, permissible for students to prepare foods and consume them at school as a supervised learning activity.

I know some parents get upset about this but; this is a state law, not a county law or school rule. The law was passed several years ago to help control exposure to food borne illnesses from improperly prepared or stored foods. It is even more relevant now with the higher incidence of food allergies in children.