# Food Guidelines for Cooper Elementary School 2026-2027

Food allergy is a growing public health issue that impacts almost every school across the United States. These guidelines seek to protect the physical and emotional health of students with food allergies by creating a safe and inclusive environment while maintaining our Cooper traditions.

- Food may not be distributed at any student birthday parties. Parents may send in non-food items (eg: stickers for each student, a book for the class library, etc.); or a parent can be a special reader/visitor.
- Food and/or Candy may not be distributed with Valentine's Day cards. Valentine's may include non-food items (eg: stickers, pencils, erasers, etc.)
- The room parent(s) will receive from the school nurse a list of food allergies present in the classroom that they represent. The room parent(s) will provide foods that comply with this list at the school-specified End-of-Year Party.
- Teachers and Room Parents are to request parents of children with food allergies to be involved as much as possible in the planning of food for the scheduled parties.
- Food may not be distributed from staff to students for any reason during the school day. Staff members may consult with the principal to request permission to distribute food for special circumstances, projects, events, etc. It is recommended that food not be provided as a reward to students.
- Should an occasion arise when the principal will allow food to be offered other than already outlined, the principal will send home a letter informing parents of the food offerings and allow parents to provide an alternative food for the student who is not permitted to eat the food (for whatever reason).
- The PTA will be permitted to provide food to students during the school day on one occasion outside of classroom parties. On field day, the PTA may provide popsicles or water-ice. Prior to field day, the principal will send home a letter informing parents of the food to be offered and allow parents to provide an alternative food for any student who is not permitted to eat the PTA-sponsored food (for any reason).