

## Retailer Notice

# Texas Bans Sweetened Drinks and Candy from SNAP EBT

**Beginning April 1, 2026, Texas restricts the purchase of sweetened drinks and candy using SNAP EBT.**

“Sweetened drinks” means any non-alcoholic beverage made with water that contains five grams or more of added sugar or any amount of artificial sweetener.

Excluded from this definition are beverages:

- containing milk, milk products, or similar milk substitutes (soy, rice, or similar);
- containing more than 50% vegetable or fruit juice by volume;
- containing natural sweeteners derived from plants (such as stevia or monk fruit) with less than five grams of added sugar; or
- considered medical grade electrolyte drinks used for illness related to dehydration.

“Candy” means any confection made with natural or artificial sweeteners, such as candy bars, gum, candied fruit, or nuts roasted with sweeteners. Candy is defined by Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 34, Section 3.293(a)(4). This does not include products used exclusively for cooking, such as chocolate bits and cake sprinkles, or snack items, as defined by Texas Administrative Code, Title 34, Section 3.293(a)(14).

You must comply with these changes. **If you do not comply, FNS may withdraw your SNAP authorization, and you will no longer be able to accept SNAP EBT.**

For more information on Texas’ SNAP Food Restrictions, please visit the Texas Health and Human Services’ [Community Engagement webpage](#) and click on the HHSC Ambassador Toolkit for retailer-specific resources and information. To learn more, please review the [Texas SNAP Food Restriction Waiver](#).

If you have questions, please contact [EBTRetailerOps@hhs.tx.gov](mailto:EBTRetailerOps@hhs.tx.gov).

For a complete list of states implementing similar changes, visit USDA’s [SNAP Food Restriction Waivers](#).

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For more information visit USDA’s [SNAP Retailer Webpage](#).

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