

SNAP Healthy Choice Waiver Candy Restriction Effective November 1, 2026

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Webinar Purpose

- Candy restriction information:
 - Definitions
 - Product eligibility
 - Compliance information
 - Information distributed to the public
 - Website information updates
- Answer questions?



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DHHS Projects & Assistance

- DHHS team can assist with product eligibility determination.
- Email: DHHS.SNAPRetailers@nebraska.gov

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Updated Ingredient Lists

- **Added Sugars** – Agave Nectar, Cane Sugar, Caramel, Corn Syrup, D-Xylose, Dextrin, Dextrose, Fructose (Levulose), High Fructose Corn Syrup, **Honey**, Invert Sugar, Invert Sugar Syrup, L-Arabinose, Lactose, Lactose-Hydrolyzed, Malt Syrup (Malt Extract), Maltose, Maple Water, Molasses (Saccharum Officinarum L.), Sucrose, Sucrose Liquid
- **Added Sweeteners** - Acesulfame Potassium, Advantame, Aspartame, Cornstarch, D-Sorbitol, Erythritol, Glycerin, Licorice Extract Powder (Glycyrrhiza Spp.), Maltodextrin, Maltol, Mannitol, Monk Fruit Extract, Neotame, Phosphoric Acid, Reb M, Saccharin (Ammonium Salt, Calcium Salt, Sodium Salt, Inositol), Stevia, **Steviol Glycosides**, Sucralose, Synthetic Glycerin, Talc, Tapioca Starch (aka Cassava Starch or Manioca Starch), Xylitol

- Lists are not all inclusive

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Disclosure

- Any products referenced in this presentation are exclusively for educational purposes. The restriction applies to all name brands and store brands of the ineligible and eligible products.

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Candy Restriction Definitions

- **Candy** is a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, powder, or pieces, typically/traditionally intended to be eaten by itself in the form in which it is sold.
- Candy is considered **shelf-stable** and includes items that are not in bar, drop, powder, or piece form, such as cotton candy and candy-coated fruit.

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Candy Restriction Exclusions

- The **Candy definition does not include** baking ingredients or other items that are used in baking or cooking but not intended to be eaten in the form in which they are sold. Baking ingredients include sprinkles, melting wafers, plain marshmallows, sweetened coconut, toffee bits, and baking chips.
- **Other items that are not considered candy** include protein bars, granola, granola bars, cereal, cereal bars, toaster pastries, yogurt with candy pieces, ice cream, cookies, pastries, cakes, muffins, and other bakery-style items. These items may contain minor candy additives, but their primary form is non-candy.
- **Lists are not all inclusive**

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Ineligible Candy Items

- Candy bars
- Fruit flavored candies
- Gummy candies
- Hard candies
- Gum/mints
- Licorice
- Powdered candy
- Cotton candy



- Candy-coated/sweetened fruit
- Candy-coated/sweetened popcorn
- Candy-coated or filled marshmallows
- Candied nuts

- **List not all inclusive**

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Eligible Baking & Cooking Items

- Sprinkles
- Decorating candies (edible icing decorations, candy eyeballs, etc.)
- Melting wafers
- Plain marshmallows
- Unsweetened/Sweetened coconut
- Toffee bits



- Baking chips (Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, White Chocolate, Cinnamon, Cherry, etc.)
- Candy bar baking bits/chips
- Almond bark
- Sugar/Brown Sugar/Powdered Sugar
- Frosting
- **List is not all inclusive**

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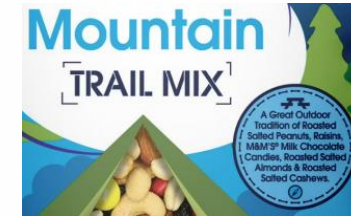
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Eligible Non-Candy Items

- Protein bars with or without candy pieces
- Trail mix with or without candy pieces
- Granola
- Granola bars/with or without candy pieces
- Cereal/Cereal bars
- Yogurt with candy pieces
- Ice cream/ice cream bars/ice cream with candy pieces
- Cookies
- List is not all inclusive



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Eligible Non-Candy Items

- Non-candy coated/sweetened popcorn or popcorn with candy pieces
- Pastries, toaster pastries
- Cakes
- Muffins
- Flavored syrups
- Other bakery-style items
- **List is not all inclusive**



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Healthy Alternatives

- Fresh fruit
- Frozen fruit
- Dried fruit without added sugar
- >70% Dark chocolate with no added sugar or artificial sweeteners
- Granola bars
- Real food bars
- Trail mix
- Non-sweetened popcorn
- Greek yogurt



• List is not all inclusive

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Expectation of Retailers

- Contact your POS system/provider – the retailer is solely responsible for project compliance with the third-party e-commerce platforms.
- Ensure that ineligible items cannot be purchased with SNAP/EBT benefits.

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Compliance/Monitoring

- Compliance/Monitoring will follow the guidance issued by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) on December 30, 2025.
- A copy of the Retailer Compliance Policies is found on the [SNAP Healthy Choice Waiver Authorized Retailer Information](#) website.
- DHHS is committed to working with retailers to ensure waiver compliance.
- Known non-compliance will be reported to FNS.
- FNS is the determining authority. They will provide guidance related to non-compliance.



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SNAP/EBT Recipients & Public

- Letters, Text Messages, and Emails
- Fact Sheets
- Flyers
- Community agencies are assisting with outreach to the consumers
- Social Media platforms/Press releases
- EBT card mailings

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SNAP Healthy Choice Waiver Website Resources

- What is Changing? flyer
- Candy Product Comparison flyer
- Candy Healthy Alternatives flyer
- Healthier Candy Alternative Recipes
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Updated Product Matrix
- Retailer Compliance Policies

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Questions/Answers

SNAP Recipient Website: [SNAP Healthy Choice Waiver Website](#)

SNAP Retailer Website: [SNAP Healthy Choice Retailer Website](#)

SNAP Healthy Choice Waiver Retailer Website QR Code



Retailer Email: DHHS.SNAPRetailers@nebraska.gov

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Thank you for joining us today.

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