



August 29, 2016

California Project LEAN announces launch of new California Competitive Food and Beverage Compliance Calculator

Are you finding it daunting to figure out whether you can sell a food or beverage in your school? New Federal requirements for competitive foods and beverages in schools, layered on top of pre-existing California law, have made it rather complicated in our state, and national calculators don't reflect California standards. To make life easier for school nutrition service directors, parents, or others who want to sell or distribute food in California schools, California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition) (CPL) has updated its California Competitive Food and Beverage Compliance Calculator to serve the California school community. To use the calculator go to www.CaliforniaProjectLEAN.org.

The California Calculator, prepared by Project LEAN with technical collaboration and testing by the California Department of Education, will allow people to enter information on a product they want to sell, and find out whether it is compliant for sale in elementary, middle, or high school. According to Dr. Lynn Silver, Project LEAN Director, "You shouldn't need a nutrition degree to figure out if a snack is compliant, and even if you have one, this straightforward tool will save time and help members of the school community make sure foods and beverages meet the state and federal standards."

Michael Danzik, MPH, RD, Nutrition Education Consultant at the California Department of Education explains, "These rules are complicated—we have been teaching people about them all across the State—this new tool will make it simpler to keep schools in compliance."

California Project LEAN and the California Department of Education will be offering a free joint training webinar on how to use the calculator on Wednesday, September 14th from 1:30 pm – 3:00 p.m. This webinar is open to any groups or individuals selling foods and beverages in schools; including School Food Service personnel, parent organization members, student organization members, and the school food and beverage industry. Register for the webinar at:

<https://publichealthinstitute.webex.com/publichealthinstitute/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5b4cb708033e587106f78e2229612d5e>

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