

## STRATEGY I: Limit Unhealthy Choices for Snacks and Celebrations; Provide Healthy Choices

# why does this matter?

**Snacks can be good or bad for kids' diets, depending on the choices we offer.** Limiting unhealthy choices and providing healthy snacks can improve students' behavior, focus, attention span, academic achievement, and attendance. Too much junk food and an unhealthy diet decreases academic performance.<sup>1-4</sup>

**Snacks are a bigger part of kids' diets than in the past.** More snacking and unhealthy snack foods (e.g., potato chips, cookies, and candy) are major factors linked with childhood obesity. When the foods are healthier, snacking can be linked to reduced obesity.<sup>5,6</sup>

**Classroom celebrations can happen a lot and most foods served are usually high in sugar, fat, and calories.**<sup>7</sup> Limiting unhealthy choices and having healthy celebrations will support what kids are learning in the classroom about healthy behaviors.

### Serving healthy snacks to kids:

- Provides good nutrition.
- Supports lifelong healthy eating habits.
- Helps reduce the risk of developing long-lasting health conditions.<sup>8,9</sup>

#### References

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