

School Concession Stands

In order to determine proper licensing for school concession stands, the regulatory authority will need answers to a few questions.

Question 1: Is licensing required?

- Does the stand meet the definition of a “food establishment” in Iowa Code Chapter 137F or in Iowa Administrative Code 481-30.2 (10A)? If so, then a license is required.
- In most circumstances, concession stands require licensing. An exception to licensing requirements would include a stand only selling prepackaged foods that do not require temperature control such as canned and bottled beverages, candy, and chips. There are also some exemptions for not for profit organizations provided they operate once a week or less.

Question 2: Does the school’s food service license extend to the concession stand?

- Yes, if the school district assumes all the responsibilities of the permit holder as defined by Iowa Food Code section 8-304.11. In this case, the stand is still subject to inspection. The inspection report should be entered under the school’s license and notes indicating which organization was operating during the inspection should be placed in the report.
- No, if the school district is not willing to assume the responsibilities of the permit holder as defined by Iowa Food Code section 8-304.11. In this case, the regulatory authority will need to determine which organization or individual is responsible for the food service operations. That entity must obtain the license.

Question 3: Does each concession stand need a separate license?

- No, if the same organization operates multiple concession stands during school activities such as at the football field, baseball diamond, and gymnasium, one license would cover all of the stands. Each stand should be inspected while operating.

Question 4: What happens if there are multiple groups operating concession stands?

- If there are separate groups such as Football Boosters, Wrestling Boosters, Basketball Boosters, and Band Boosters that are all covered under one Booster Club then only one license would be required.
- If the groups are independent, then each group would have to be individually assessed to determine if a license is required based on their activities and individually licensed if a license is required.