

## Building Healthy School Environments - Curb Mobile Vending to Kids (AB 1678: Monning)

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### ISSUE

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No one should profit at the expense of children's health. School environments that support healthy eating put our kids on a path to long-term wellbeing and life-long achievement. For many years, California has taken action to create such environments. In communities across the state, those efforts are being undermined by mobile food vending that specifically and intentionally targets students near school campuses.

### NEED

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Before, during, and after the school day, mobile food vendors converge near campuses to sell chips, soda, and a host of other unhealthy items. Vendors are using the portability of their businesses to target students with the very foods and beverages that California has worked diligently to remove from schools. This type of vending diminishes hard-fought, long-sought improvements to school nutrition and undercuts the important health messages that those changes convey to students.

### REQUEST

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CFPA requests that the legislature promote and protect children's health by restricting mobile food vending that targets students within 500 feet of school campuses before, during, and after the school day.

### HISTORY

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California has established several statutes to create school environments that support health and nutrition. AB 1678 would advance those efforts.

SB 677 (Ortiz), signed into law in 2003, eliminates the sale of unhealthy beverages to students on elementary school campuses. For students on junior high or middle school campuses, the statute restricts the sale of unhealthy beverages during the school day as well as 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after.

SB 965 (Escutia), signed into law in 2005, applies to high school campuses the same restrictions set for junior high and middle schools by SB 677.

SB 12 (Escutia), signed into law in 2005, sets nutritional standards for competitive foods sold to students on school campuses. This statute sets standards for calories, fat, and sugars.

SB 638 (Torlakson), signed into law in 2006, applies the nutritional standards of SB 12 and 965 to snacks served during certain afterschool programs on school campuses.

### OUTCOMES

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Restricting mobile food vending that targets students near school campuses will: (1) foster school environments that support health and, by extension, academic achievement; (2) decrease students' access to calorie-rich, nutrient-poor foods and beverages that have already been removed from school grounds; and (3) bolster the school-based federal nutrition programs.

Collectively, these effects will result in more students being well-nourished and ready to learn and fewer children struggling with obesity and overweight. CFPA is primarily concerned with the nutrition-related outcomes of curbing mobile vending near schools. We recognize that other stakeholders embrace this strategy as a means of ensuring student safety around school campuses.