

A Temporary Food Establishment Permit may be required if food is served at a school event.

Use the below guidelines to determine if your school event requires a permit.

You will need a permit if:

- Event is open to the public and food will not be prepared by a licensed caterer or in the permitted school kitchen by food service staff.

An event is considered open to the public if it has been advertised to the public in any way (flyers, internet, newspaper, school reader board, ticket sales).

You will not need a permit if:

- In-school event is advertised only using flyers sent home with students.

Examples: PTA movie night, popcorn Friday.

- Only “permit-exempt” food is served.

“Permit-exempt” food is commercially packaged and does not require temperature control for safety.

Examples: pretzels, cookies, crackers, chips, candy, bottled/canned beverages, ice cream bars.

- Food is prepared in and served out of a permitted school kitchen by food service staff.

- Food is prepared by a licensed caterer and the event meets permit criteria.

Example: dinner fundraiser where food service lasts no more than 4 hours.

Be sure your caterer is licensed. Unlicensed caterers often do not have the facilities to safely prepare food. For a list of licensed Pierce County caterers, visit www.tpchd.org/food.

- Bake sale will be held by a non-profit organization operating for religious, charitable or educational purposes with homemade baked goods that don't require temperature control.

Items must be prepared and individually wrapped in a sanitary manner and a clearly visible sign at the point of sale must read: “This food was prepared at a kitchen that is not inspected by the Health Department.”

Food made in a private residence may not be served or sold at an event that is open to the public, except at bake sales (as described to the left).

To apply for a permit, visit www.tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/temporary-events/online-application.

Questions?

You can reach us at (253) 649-1703 or food@tpchd.org.