



HEALTHY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Support and Promote the *Michigan Nutrition Standards*

Many Michigan schools participate in some type of school fundraising. When it comes to fundraising, schools often raise money selling treats like candy, cupcakes, or donuts because the demand is high for these items, the cost of the items is fairly cheap, and money can be made easily. The problem is, when schools allow students or other school-based groups or organizations to do this they are sacrificing student health for quick cash. Schools can benefit just as well (and even more, health-wise) with a fundraiser that takes the focus off of unhealthy food and focuses on something else such as exercise, entertainment, healthy eating, or the environment. The *Michigan Nutrition Standards* recommend that schools focus on fundraising that is good for students and that does NOT focus on selling unhealthy foods. These types of fundraisers may be a little more work but they can also be a lot of fun and are definitely better for students' health.

CREATIVE AND DIFFERENT IDEAS

1. Singing Telegrams. This is organized by the high school choir, chorale group or any other group that is willing to sing (even a sports team could do it!). Telegrams are sent to students and staff at school during a designated hour or time slot during homecoming week, finals week, the week before the winter holiday or just before graduation. A fee is charged for the telegram to be delivered.



2. Get Stuck for a Buck. Sell pieces of colorful duct tape for \$1.00 each. During the lunch hour or a designated time, e.g. a pep rally, students can use the pieces to stick the principal or a favorite teacher to the wall. Caution: Kids need adult help to do this and should not be unsupervised during this activity.

3. Teacher Idol. Have students (middle school and high school) nominate a teacher to sing the school song during half-time at one or more home sporting events. Students bring in change and the person with the most money in his/her jar, collected during lunchtime hours by the sponsoring group or club, is the winner and has to sing the school song during half-time.



- 4. Everybody's Got Talent.** Organize a school-wide talent show. Encourage more than the traditional singing and dancing e.g. poetry reading, yo-yos, juggling, joke-telling, and any other skills students might have. The more unusual the better! Encourage as many students as possible to participate. Attendees pay to watch the show and vote for the winners. Hold the talent show during school hours for students and once in the evening for community members to attend. Charge students \$.50-\$1 to attend and in the evening pass a hat for donations.
- 5. School Wide Used Book Sale.** Families and community members donate unwanted books. Put all the books together on cafeteria tables, in the library, or in a designated room and let students, staff members, and parents come and buy books for \$.50 each.
- 6. Go Green Recycling.** Recycle used items instead of throwing them away. Used cell phones, empty printer cartridges, cans, bags and reusable clothing can all be collected by schools in exchange for cash.
- 7. Best Bud or Milk Mustache Photos.** Buy inexpensive frames/mats or ask the Art Club to make them in school colors or with the school logo or mascot on them. At lunch, or during a designated time, take photos of groups of friends. Let the group choose, from 3-5 different poses, which photo they want printed. Each day upload the photos to an inexpensive one-hour photo store and pick up the prints. Students pay in advance, \$2-3 a photo and pick them up at the end of the week, after the sponsoring group has had time to frame them. For milk mustache photos, take pictures of students, teachers and families (after school or in the evening) with milk mustaches and sell them for \$2 each. Work with the foodservice director to provide milk and healthy cookies to participants between photo shoots.
- 8. Send Your Teacher Packing!** Ask a family to donate the use of their vacation home for the grand prize. Sell student-made raffle tickets that say "Send Mr./Mrs. _____ packing!" Send home an order form for tickets to parents. All tickets are put in a box, and at the end of the sale one teacher's name is drawn. 100% profit and a great morale booster!
- 9. Coffee, Tea and Student Art.** In the art room, a gymnasium, the school library or another designated room, children's art designed for an art show, is sold via a week-long silent auction held at the school. The sponsoring group provides coffee and tea and monitors the room during the times the auction is open. Smaller art, e.g. prints of student art made into holiday cards or thank you notes, can be sold and purchased anytime during the auction.
- 10. Student Car Wash.** Conduct a car wash in the school parking lot after school. All you need is a few hoses, sponges, soap and buckets. Make sure to have lots of volunteers on hand and don't forget your sunscreen! Include a school pride bumper sticker with a deluxe (add a dollar to the cost) car wash.
- 11. Flowers.** Sell carnations, roses or any other flower the week of Valentine's Day, or during school spirit week or right before graduation. Have ready-made or make-your-own inspirational notes available for students or school staff to tie on the stems such as "I'm proud of you," "Hang in there," "Glad you're my friend," or "You're the best."
- 12. Student vs. Staff Basketball or Volleyball Game.** Teachers or other school staff members take on students in a friendly competition. Students pay \$1-2 and are excused from their last hour of classes to attend.
- 13. Guess The Weight.** Weigh collectively the band with their instruments, the football team with their equipment or another school group. For \$.50 a guess, students or community members can enter a guess. Make this a 50/50 raffle where whomever guesses correctly gets free season tickets, concert passes, or another related prize.

