

Sales Tax Guide

Sale of Candy, Soda and Soft Drinks	Taxable, except for certain drinks.	Tax Law §1115(a)(1) generally provides an exemption for the sales and purchases of food, food products, beverages sold for human consumption. However, the exemption does not apply to candy, sodas or soft drinks, and fruit drinks that contain less than 70% natural fruit juice.
Spaghetti dinners and catered meals	Taxable	Tax Law §1115(a)(1) generally provides an exemption for the sales and purchases of food, food products, beverages sold for human consumption. However, the exemption does not apply to catered situations, where the students of the club would be serving, assisting in serving, cooking, or otherwise providing services with respect to the food items in question.
Bake Sales	Non-Taxable.	Tax Law §1115(a)(1) generally provides an exemption for the sales and purchases of food, food products, beverages sold for human consumption. This provision exempts bake sales from the collection of sales tax.
Vending Machine Sales -- Food Items	Taxable, generally.	Where tables, chairs, benches, etc. are provided where the vending machine operations are conducted, the sales through the vending machine are taxable. Where no eating facilities are provided, the sales are exempt from sales tax.
Pizza, Chicken, Popcorn, Coffee, Tea, etc.	Taxable.	All sales of prepared food sold in a heated state (where the food is maintained at a temperature warmer than surrounding air temperature) are subject to sales tax, including those sold for off-premises consumption.
Admission Charges	Taxable, except for certain events.	Exemption is provided from sales tax for admissions to dramatic or musical arts performances, which do not include variety shows, magic shows, circuses, ice shows, dances, and similar performances. Included in the exemption is an admission charge to choreographed performances to music, which may exempt color guard admissions.
Sale of Newspapers and Magazines	Non-Taxable.	
Sale of shrubs, plants and trees	Taxable.	
Sale of Yearbook	Taxable, generally.	If the entire cost of the yearbook is underwritten by the Board of Education and the revenue is recognized as a General Fund item, the sale becomes an exempt transaction, not subject to sales tax.
Sale of Yearbook Advertising Space	Non-Taxable.	
Sale of Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Jackets, Jewelry	Taxable.	Tax Law §1105(a) provides that sales tax is imposed on the sale of tangible personal property.
Book Store Sales	Taxable.	Unless specifically exempt.
Pre-packaged Popcorn, Potato Chips, Pretzels	Non-Taxable, generally	When packaged and sold in a cold state, prepackaged snack foods are exempt. This exemption does not apply to caramel or other candy coated snack foods.
Hair Cuts and Styling	Non-Taxable.	The cutting and styling of hairpieces is not included in this exemption.
Repair/Maintenance Services, Car Washes	Taxable, generally.	An exemption is provided for the repair, maintenance or service of farm machinery.