The verdict is in: Companies can make tasty, healthier products.

So why do they continue to market unhealthy options?

The food industry has made great strides in reformulating products to meet updated school nutrition standards. Despite immense progress, companies continue to market products to schools that have no business on school lunch trays. The Center for Science in the Public Interest analyzed K-12 products marketed by some of the largest companies¹ and found that products largely fit within science-based standards for whole grains, sodium, added sugars, artificial sweeteners of concerns, and synthetic dyes. Below are examples of some of the worst products in each group assessed and better alternatives, which are often offered by the same company. Healthier products exist, so it's time for companies to remove or improve their worst offenders.



Worst Yogurt

Yoplait® Smooth Yogurts K12 cups have 11 g added sugars per 4 oz cup.



Better Yogurt

Yoplait® Trix™ yogurts have 5 q added sugars per 4 oz. cup.



Worst Mexican-Style Entrée

Foster Farms WG Cheese, Beef, Bean & Red Chili Burritos, PF, 4.75 oz., Bulk, CN has 850 mg sodium.



Better Mexican-Style Entrée

Foster Farms WG Cheese & Bean Burrito, 4.50 oz., Bulk, CN has 400 mg sodium.



Worst Sandwich

Tyson AdvancePierre™ Fully Cooked Turkey Ham & Cheese on a Whole Grain Hoagie Bun, 4.39 oz. has 800 mg sodium.



Better Sandwich

Tyson® Fully Cooked Chicken Ham & Cheese on a Whole Grain Hoagie Bun, 5.22 oz. has 570 ma sodium.



Worst Pizza

Schwan Red Baron® 5" Deep Dish Pizza Pork Pepperoni has 1,050 mg sodium per 1 individually-wrapped pizza. It is also not whole-grain-rich.



Better Pizza

Schwan Big Daddy's™ Primo 16" 51% WG Scratch Ready Cheese has 300 mg per slice and is whole-grain-rich.



Worst Cold Cereal

Post Foodservice Marshmallow Mateys 2 oz bowl contains 23 g added sugars. It also has 380 mg sodium, and contains synthetic dyes (Yellow 5, Red 40, Blue 1, and Yellow 6).



Better Cold Cereal

Post Foodservice Frosted Strawberry Shredded Wheat 2 oz bowl contains 10 g added sugars. It also has only 5 mg sodium and no synthetic dyes.

The full School Meals Corporate Report Card is available online, free of charge at https://cspinet.org/school-meals-corporate-report-card-2021

¹ Center for Science in the Public Interest. 2021 School Meals Corporate Report Card. https://cspinet.org/school-meals-corporate-report-card-2021

