



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	School Wellness
Code	246
Status	Active
Adopted	July 22, 2013
Last Revised	August 2, 2021

### **Purpose**

The school district recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

### **Authority**

The Board adopts this policy based on the recommendations of the Wellness Committee and in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Board establishes that the district shall provide to students:

1. A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.
2. Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutrition guidelines.
3. Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day.
4. Curriculum and programs for grades K-12 that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy to ensure each of the district's schools, programs and curriculum is compliant with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Each building principal or designee shall annually report to the Superintendent or designee regarding compliance in his/her school.[\[2\]](#)

Staff members responsible for programs related to school wellness shall report to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of such programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on the district's compliance with law and policies related to school wellness. The report shall include an assurance provided by the Food Service Director or designee that district guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law.

The Superintendent or designee and the established Wellness Committee shall conduct an assessment at least once every three (3) years on the contents and implementation of this policy as part of a continuous improvement process to strengthen the policy and ensure implementation. This triennial assessment shall be made available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner and include:[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

1. The extent to which each district school is in compliance with law and policies related to school wellness.
2. The extent to which this policy compares to model wellness policies.
3. A description of the progress made by the district in attaining the goals of this policy.

At least once every three (3) years, the district shall update or modify this policy as needed, based on the results of the most recent triennial assessment and/or as district and community needs and priorities change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information and technologies emerge; and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued.[\[2\]](#)

The district shall annually inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students, and others in the community, about the contents, updates and implementation of this policy via the district website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods. This annual notification shall include information on how to access the School Wellness policy; information about the most recent triennial assessment; information on how to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the School Wellness policy; and a means of contacting Wellness Committee leadership.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

## **Guidelines**

### **Recordkeeping**

The district shall retain records documenting compliance with the requirements of the School Wellness policy, which shall include:[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

1. The written School Wellness policy.
2. Documentation demonstrating that the district has informed the public, on an annual basis, about the contents of the School Wellness policy and any updates to the policy.
3. Documentation of efforts to review and update the School Wellness policy, including who is involved in the review and methods used by the district to inform the public of their ability to participate in the review.
4. Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the School Wellness policy and notification of the assessment results to the public.

### **Wellness Committee**

The district shall establish a Wellness Committee comprised of, but not necessarily limited to, at least one (1) of each of the following: School Board member, district administrator, district food service representative, student, parent/guardian, school health professional, physical education teacher and member of the public. It shall be the goal that committee membership will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.[\[1\]](#)

The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing, implementing and periodically reviewing and updating a School Wellness policy that complies with law to recommend to the Board for adoption.

The Wellness Committee shall review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in establishing goals for nutrition education and promotion, physical activity and other school based activities that promote student wellness as part of the policy development and revision process.[\[2\]](#)

#### Advisory Health Council

Individuals who conduct student medical and dental examinations shall submit to the Advisory Health Council annual reports and later reports on the remedial work accomplished during the year, as required by law.[\[4\]](#)

#### Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs.

District schools shall promote nutrition through the implementation of Farm to School activities, where possible. Activities may include, but not be limited to, the initiation/maintenance of school gardens, taste-testing of local products in the cafeteria and classroom, classroom education about local agriculture and nutrition, field trips to local farms and incorporation of local foods into school meal programs.

District schools should promote and educate positive lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence based techniques and nutrition messages that create food environments that encourage participation in District provided school meals.

Consistent nutrition messages shall be demonstrated by avoiding use of unhealthy food items in classroom lesson plans and school staff avoiding eating less healthy food items in front of students.

#### Physical Activity

District schools shall strive to provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day for all students.

A physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students shall be maintained.

#### Physical Education

A sequential physical education program consistent with curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented. All district students must participate in physical education.[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Quality physical education instruction that promotes lifelong physical activity and provides instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation shall be provided.

A comprehensive physical education course of study that focuses on providing students the skills, knowledge and confidence to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity shall be implemented.

A varied and comprehensive curriculum that promotes both team and individual activities and leads to students becoming and remaining physically active for a lifetime shall be provided in the physical education program.

## Other School Based Activities

Safe drinking water shall be available and accessible to students, without restriction and at no cost to the student, at all meal periods and throughout the school day.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Nutrition professionals who meet hiring criteria established by the district and in compliance with federal regulations shall administer the school meals program. Professional development and continuing education shall be provided for district nutrition staff, as required by federal regulations.[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

District schools shall provide adequate space, as defined by the district, for eating and serving school meals.

Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.

Students shall have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals and snacks.

Students and parents/guardians may be involved in menu selections through various means, such as taste testing and surveys.

The district shall maintain a healthy school environment to optimize conditions for learning and minimize potential health risks to students, in accordance with the district's school environmental health program and applicable laws and regulations.

## Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods/Beverages at School

All foods and beverages available in district schools during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing obesity.

Foods and beverages provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with established federal nutrition standards.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day, such as athletic events and dances, shall offer healthy alternatives in addition to more traditional fare.

### *Competitive Foods -*

**Competitive foods** are defined as foods and beverages offered or sold to students on school campus during the school day, which are not part of the reimbursable school breakfast or lunch.

For purposes of this policy, **school campus** means any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that students may access during the school day.[\[2\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

For purposes of this policy, **school day** means the period from midnight before school begins until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day.[\[2\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

Administration may impose additional restrictions on competitive foods, provided that the restrictions are not inconsistent with federal requirements.

Competitive foods available for sale shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). These standards shall apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold to students, which may include, but are not limited to: a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack carts and fundraisers.[\[2\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

### *Fundraiser Exemptions -*

Fundraising activities held during the school day involving the sale of competitive foods shall be limited to foods that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, unless an exemption is approved in accordance with applicable Board policy and administrative regulations.[\[18\]](#)

The district may allow a limited number of exempt fundraisers as permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education each school year: up to five (5) exempt fundraisers in elementary and middle school buildings, and up to ten (10) exempt fundraisers in high school buildings. **Exempt fundraisers** are fundraisers in which competitive foods are available for sale to students that do not meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.[\[16\]](#)

The district shall establish administrative regulations to implement fundraising activities in district schools, including procedures for requesting a fundraiser exemption.

#### *Non-Sold Competitive Foods -*

Non-sold competitive foods available to students, which may include but are not limited to foods and beverages offered as rewards and incentives, at classroom parties and celebrations, or as shared classroom snacks, shall meet or exceed the standards established by the district.

If the offered competitive foods do not meet or exceed the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, the following standards shall apply:

##### 1. Rewards and Incentives:

- a. Foods and beverages shall not be used as a reward for classroom or school activities unless the reward is an activity that promotes a positive nutrition message (e.g., guest chef, field trip to a farm or farmers market, etc.).

##### 2. Classroom Parties and Celebrations:

- a. Classroom parties/celebrations with food/beverages shall be limited to no more than one (1) per month in each classroom.
- b. Parents/Guardians shall be informed through newsletters or other efficient communication methods that foods/beverages should only be brought in when requested for scheduled parties.
- c. When possible, foods/beverages for parties and celebrations shall be provided by the food service department to help prevent food safety and allergy concerns.

##### 3. Shared Classroom Snacks:

- a. Shared classroom snacks are ~~not~~ permitted in district schools and should follow national standards.

The district shall provide a list of suggested nonfood ideas and healthy food and beverage alternatives to parents/guardians and staff, which may be posted via the district website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods.

#### *Marketing/Contracting -*

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School) and comply with established Board policy and administrative regulations.[\[2\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

Exclusive competitive food and/or beverage contracts shall be approved by the Board, in accordance with provisions of law. Existing contracts shall be reviewed and modified to the extent feasible to ensure compliance with established federal nutrition standards, including applicable marketing restrictions.[\[19\]](#)

#### Management of Food Allergies in District Schools

The district shall establish Board policy and administrative regulations to address food allergy management in district schools in order to:[20]

1. Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.
2. Ensure a rapid and effective response in case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
3. Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

#### Safe Routes to School

The district shall assess and, to the extent possible, implement improvements to make walking and biking to school safer and easier for students.

The district shall cooperate with local municipalities, public safety agency, police departments and community organizations to develop and maintain safe routes to school.

District administrators shall seek and utilize available federal and state funding for safe routes to school, when appropriate.

## Legal

1. 42 U.S.C. 1758b
2. 7 CFR 210.31
3. 7 CFR 210.15
4. 24 P.S. 1422
5. 24 P.S. 1512.1
6. Pol. 102
7. Pol. 105
8. 7 CFR 210.10
9. 7 CFR 220.8
10. 24 P.S. 701
11. 24 P.S. 742
12. 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq
13. 42 U.S.C. 1773
14. 7 CFR 210.30
15. Pol. 808
16. 7 CFR 210.11
17. 7 CFR 220.12
18. Pol. 229
19. 24 P.S. 504.1
20. Pol. 209.1
- 24 P.S. 1337.1
- 24 P.S. 1422.3
- 24 P.S. 1513
- P.L. 111-296
- 7 CFR Part 210
- 7 CFR Part 220
- Pol. 103
- Pol. 103.1