District: Rockcastle County Schools Wellness Plan for KRS 158.856 Findings and Recommendations

The Superintendent shall submit the wellness plan that includes a summary of the findings and recommendations of the nutrition and physical activity report as required by May 1 of each year to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). (702 KAR 6:090 Section 5 (1,c) / Section 6 (2))

The District shall include within the findings and recommendations the following:

- 1. Extent to which the District is in compliance with this Policy;
- 2. A comparison of how the District measures up to model wellness policies provided by recognized state and national authorities; and
- 3. A description of the measurable progress made towards reaching goals of the District wellness policy and addressing any gaps identified in the wellness report for the previous year.

LEA Submission of Findings and Recommendations

Area of Assessment: NUTRITION

Findings:

- Venues outside of school cafeteria not offering healthy snacks or fruits/vegetables
- Unhealthy food being used as a reward for students.
- Fundraisers involving the sale of unhealthy foods
- Not promoting healthy eating habits among staff
- Not all foods being sold in school vending machines meet smart snack standards, but better than previous years.
- The need to provide more food variety at the middle school level.

Recommendations:

- Encourage other school food sales to offer fresh fruits and vegetables as options for students and staff to purchase.
- Avoid using unhealthy foods (such as soda) as a reward for student achievement. Preferably offering extra PE or recess time.
- When possible, avoid fundraisers that involve the sale of unhealthy food items.
- Promote healthy eating habits among staff by encouraging them to participate in school meals. This has increased with the sale of chef salads.
- Encourage healthy snacks and beverages be served at staff meetings.
- Continue to work to increase breakfast and lunch participation at all grade levels and schools.

• Ensure all foods sold during the school day meet smart snack standards and are not available until at least 30 minutes after the last lunch period.

Area of Assessment: Physical Activity/Physical Education

Findings:

- Withholding recess and PE is sometimes used as a form of discipline
- Not promoting physical activity among staff

Recommendations:

- When possible, do not withhold PE or recess in an effort to punish a student.
- Consider a weight-loss and physical activity challenge among staff.
- Create a fitness or weight loss challenge between RCS and other community organizations, which was done in previous years.



2019 **Nutrition & Physical Activity Report Card Revised/Updated January 2020**

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018-2019 Nutrition & Physical Activity Report

Rockcastle County School District is committed to addressing and encouraging the educational, psychological, and physical growth of all students. The school environment promotes healthy eating and physical activities that support student achievement and encourage lifelong wellness practices. The following annual report includes facts about the school breakfast and lunch programs as well as the physical activity opportunities in the schools.

NUTRITION

All Rockcastle County students receive breakfast and lunch free of charge through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Federal reimbursement is received for each meal served based on our Identified Student Population (ISP).

Rockcastle County Schools continue to safeguard the health and well-being of students by ensuring that school meals follow USDA guidelines. Portions are designed to meet the needs of growing children, while providing a specified number of calories, fat, saturated fat, and sodium. Milk is 1% flavored or 1% white.



Breakfast

Based on a four week menu cycle, each school offers a choice of four breakfast entrees, fruit, juice and milk daily. MVES, RCMS and RCHS provide a 2nd Chance Breakfast offering one entrée, fruit, juice and milk. Second chance breakfast is offered in convenient locations between first and second period and is effective for serving students who, due to family schedules or transportation issues, are not able to eat before school begins and is also effective for students who are not hungry first thing in the morning, but do get hungry before lunch.

Breakfast Participation	2017-2018	2018-2019	
Total Breakfasts Served	351,988	344,096	
Average Daily Participation	2,070 (78%)	2,024 (77%)	
Average Daily Attendance	2,654	2,617	

Lunch

Lunches are planned on a five-week menu cycle. The menu ensures that we offer a variety of food choices and allows us to make the most efficient use of USDA donated commodities. According to the USDA guidelines, a variety of vegetables from the four sub groups are offered weekly.

All students have the option to choose the hot entrée or a freshly prepared chef salad. Chef salads were introduced at the elementary level at the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year and have been a huge success.

Lunch Participation	2017-2018	2018-2019	
Total Lunches Served	391,376	387,693	
Average Daily Participation	2,302 (87%)	2,281 (87%)	
Average Daily Attendance	2,654	2,617	
Financial Impact	2017-2018	2018-2019	
Reimbursement Received	\$2,033,717	\$2,054,133	



After School Snack

After school snack is served when an instructional program is offered outside of the regular school day. Snack can be extended to other after school programs such as athletic groups, Girl Scouts, etc. as long as there is one instructional program offered.

After School Snack	2017-2018	2018-2019	
Total Snacks Served	3,606	4,344	

Smart Snacks

Food and beverage items that are sold as extras meet the USDA's Smart Snacks nutrition standards required by the Kentucky Board of Education.

2018-2019 Summer Food Service Program Sites

Mt. Vernon Elementary, Rockcastle County Middle School, • Rockcastle County High School, Mt. Vernon City Park, Rockcastle County Public Library

2018-2019 SFSP Meals	Breakfast	Lunch/Dinner
Total Meals Served	247	640



SUCCESSES

- Mt. Vernon Elementary completed an Administrative Review by • KDE and received positive feedback from auditors with no compliance issues
- Roundstone Elementary upgraded kitchen equipment with a new oven, steamer and holding cabinet.
- Discussions and planning began for RCHS cafeteria design and furniture upgrades, including input from RCHS Student Council.
- New Summer Food Service site established at the public library.

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018-2019 Nutrition & Physical Activity Report

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical Activity Environment

Schools play a crucial role in influencing physical activity behaviors. Sound curriculum, policies, and facilities create an environment encouraging students and staff to engage in a variety of physical activity opportunities. Evidence supports a correlation between academic scores and the physical wellbeing of students.

Physical education teachers and other resources have created activities that classroom teachers can easily implement in order to work toward the goal of daily moderate to vigorous activity in elementary schools. PE classes, recess, and fitness programs in classrooms are just a few examples.

- Schools offer clubs and community physical activity programs which include after school programs and sports activities. Examples: Rock Moves, DanceBlue, Walking Club, Running Club, Archery, Jump Rope Club
- Elementary physical education is required for each student but is taught on different schedules at each of the three elementary schools. All students receive approximately 110 minutes of physical education per week.
- Physical education is required for each middle school student for 14 consecutive weeks during grades 6 - 8: 225 minutes of physical activity are taught each week for 14 weeks; then health is taught for 14 weeks. This continues for the school year.
- Physical education is a required course for freshmen. Students take Health and PE I at the same time for one credit. Advanced PE courses are offered as electives once PE I is passed.

Physical Activity Environment Assessment 2018-2019			
Program/Activity	Elem.	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
Provides daily recess	YES	YES	YES
Provides at least 150 minutes of physical education per week	YES	N/A	N/A
Provides at least 225 minutes of physical education	N/A	YES	9th Grade
Provides intramural phys- ical activity opportunities	YES	YES	YES
Offer facilities to families/ community for physical activity opportunities	YES	YES	YES



SUCCESSES

- RCMS students participated in the Redbud Health Walk (April 2019).
- Roundstone Runners Club participated in the 4K for Heart Health (March 2019)
- The 3rd annual Rock Moves event included a 1.5-mile run and 21 fitness stations from which students could choose. It was facilitated by the PE and Health Dept. at RCHS and every staff member at the high school, with the help of Berea Fitness 24/7 instructors- Lisa Sentar (Yoga), and Eden Lewis (Pound). (October 2018)
- MVES Family Resource Center hosted after school health and wellness enrichment classes such as cooking and Jump Rope Club.
- MVES and BES continued with Girls on the Run, • inspiring girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.
- Rockcastle County Extension Service offered cooking, ٠ health and nutrition classes to students in varying grade levels throughout the school year.
- Rockcastle Regional Hospital provided Academy students with health-related instruction regarding the dangers of vaping and tobacco use and proper handwashing techniques



Rockcastle County School District's Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition 2018-2019



Preamble

Whereas, children need access to healthful foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive;

Whereas, good health fosters student attendance and education;

Whereas more than one-third of children and more than two-thirds of adults in the United States are overweight or obese, the 7th edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans places stronger emphasis on balancing calories with physical activity, and encourages Americans to make more nutrient-rich food choices that contain less sodium, saturated fats and trans-fats, added sugars and refined grains.

Whereas, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for 55% of deaths in the United States, and major risk factors for these diseases, including unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, and obesity, often are established in childhood.

Whereas, 33% of high school students do not participate in sufficient vigorous physical activity and 70% of high school students do not attend daily physical education classes, and there are numerous studies showing that physical activity can improve academic achievement in students.

Whereas, nationally, until the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 was enacted, the items most commonly sold from school vending machines, school stores, and snack bars included low-nutrition foods and beverages, such as soda, sports drinks, imitation fruit juices, chips, candy, cookies, and snack cakes.

Whereas, Rockcastle County ranks 89 out of 120 counties in health outcomes mortality.

Whereas, 46% of adolescents in Kentucky report consuming fruits and vegetables less than one time daily.

Whereas, school districts around the country are facing significant fiscal and scheduling constraints; and

Whereas, community participation is essential to the development and implementation of successful school wellness policies;

Thus, the Rockcastle County School District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the Rockcastle County School District that:

• The school district will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing,

monitoring, and reviewing district-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.

- All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and meet the new meal pattern requirements of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.
- Qualified child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; will accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- To the maximum extent practicable, all schools in our district will participate in available federal school meal programs including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program and After School Snack Program.
- Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. District Wellness Committee

The school district will create, strengthen, and work to develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The council also will serve as a resource to schools for implementing those policies.

Rockcastle County Schools Wellness Committee:

David Pensol	Superintendent
Rebecca Isaacs	Director of Student Services
Jamie Saylor	Food Service Director
Jessica Lopez	District Health Services Coordinator
JD Bussell	RCHS Principal
Marcus Reppert	RCMS Principal
Derrick Bussell	BES Principal
Thomas Coffey	MVES Principal
Chris Bishop	RES Principal
Kayla Rowe	Rockcastle Regional Hospital & Parent

II. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- be free through Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- be appealing and attractive to children;

- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal (USDA) statutes and regulations;
- be entered into the InTeam menu compliance software;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables; a total of at least four choices of fruits and vegetables are offered daily for breakfast and lunch at every school. No more than half the fruits and vegetables offered will be in the form of 100% juice.
- serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (as defined by USDA); and
- ensure that all grains served are 51% whole grain rich.

Obtaining Feedback. Rockcastle County Schools Food Services will engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees, in selecting foods offered through the school meal programs in order to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices. The Food Service Department will maintain a website page and <u>Facebook</u> page to communicate menus, special offerings and other related information. In addition, the Food Service Department will share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. Directions on how to select a reimbursable meal will be available on the <u>district website</u> and <u>Food Service Facebook page</u>. Food service staff will also guide students to select a complete reimbursable meal.

Breakfast. To ensure that all children have breakfast, meeting their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn:

- Schools will operate the School Breakfast Program.
- Schools will provide breakfast at no charge through the Community Eligibility Provision.
- Schools will, to the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast in the classroom, offering "grab-and-go" options, or offering a second chance breakfast between first and second period (middle and high school).
- Schools will notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.

<u>Community Eligibility Provision</u>. All Rockcastle County Schools provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income.

Meal Times and Scheduling. Schools:

- will provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch;
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times
- should not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities; will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and

<u>Qualifications of School Food Service Staff</u>. Qualified and properly trained professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, we will provide continuing professional development for all food service staff in schools. Staff development programs will include KentuckyOne certification and training programs for the food service director, food service administrative assistant, school food service managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Notification of Eligibility of Meals. Prior to the beginning of each school year, a notice is included in the Mount Vernon Signal (local newspaper) stating that all schools in Rockcastle County will be participating in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and all students will receive one breakfast and one lunch at no cost, regardless of income. This is also posted on our district website.

Foods and Beverages Sold Individually (*i.e.,* foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

USDA publishes practical, science-based nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, will allow schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food.

The health of today's school environment continues to improve. Students across the country are now offered healthier school lunches with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. The Smart Snacks in School standards will build on those healthy advancements and ensure that kids are only offered tasty and nutritious foods during the school day.

Smart Snacks in School also support efforts by school food service staff, school administrators, teachers, parents and the school community, all working hard to instill healthy habits in students.

Beverages

All schools may sell:

- Plain water (with or without carbonation)
- Unflavored low fat milk
- Unflavored or flavored fat free milk
- 1% flavored milk (beginning 2018-2019 school year)
- Milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP for lactose free students
- 100% fruit or vegetable juice and
- 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners.

Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions, while middle schools and high schools may sell up to 12-ounce portions of milk and juice. There is no portion size limit for plain water.

Beyond this, the standards allow additional "no calorie" and "lower calorie" beverage options for high school students.

- No more than 20-ounce portions of calorie-free, flavored water (with or without carbonation);
- and other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain < 5 calories per 8 fluid ounces or ≤ 10 calories per 20 fluid ounces.
- No more than 12-ounce portions of beverages with ≤ 40 calories per 8 fluid ounces, or ≤ 60 calories per 12 fluid ounces.

Foods

- Be a "whole grain-rich" grain product; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food; or be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable; or contain 10% of the

Daily Value (DV) of one of the nutrients of public health concern in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber).

• Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:

Calorie limits:

- Snack items: \leq 200 calories
- Entrée items: \leq 350 calories

Sodium limits:

- Snack items: ≤ 230 mg**
- o Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg

Fat limits:

- Total fat: ≤35% of calories
- Saturated fat: < 10% of calories
- Trans fat: zero grams

Sugar limit:

 $\circ \leq 35\%$ of weight from total sugars in foods

<u>Celebrations/School Parties</u>. Schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Healthy food ideas for parents and teachers that meet the Smart Snack standards are listed at the link below.

Smart Snacks Guide: https://foodandhealth.com/usda-school-snack-guide/

<u>Snacks</u>. Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and milk as the primary beverage. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other considerations.

<u>Rewards</u>. Schools should not use food or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above), as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment. An alternative would be extra gym/recess time.

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

<u>Nutrition Education and Promotion</u>. Rockcastle County School District aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

• is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;

- is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise);
- links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing; and
- includes training for teachers and other staff

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting. For students to receive the nationallyrecommended amount of daily physical activity (*i.e.*, at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class.

- classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons; and
- classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks when possible.

<u>Communications with Parents</u>. The district/school will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The district/school will send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school district website (<u>www.rockcastle.kyschools.us</u>) and <u>Food Service Facebook page</u>, and provide nutrient analyses of school menus.

The district/school will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such support will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

Food Marketing in Schools. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, schools will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually. School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages is prohibited. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

Examples of marketing techniques include the following: logos and brand names on/in vending machines, books or curricula, textbook covers, school supplies, school structures, and sports equipment; educational incentive programs that provide food as a reward; programs that provide schools with supplies when families buy low-nutrition food products; in-school television, free samples or coupons; and food sales through fundraising activities. Marketing activities that promote healthful behaviors (and are therefore allowable) include: vending machine covers promoting water; pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines and sales of fruit for fundraisers.

<u>Staff Wellness</u>. Rockcastle County School District values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

- The local health department will aid in providing health screenings which include BMI, glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings.
- Local pharmacy will make flu shots (for staff) more accessible by visiting each school.
- The district will partner with Rockcastle Regional Hospital, Rockcastle County Health Department and other local professionals to offer health related workshops and programs.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K-12.

Program/Activity	Elem.	Middle	High
Provides at least 150 minutes of physical education per week	YES	N/A	N/A
Provides at least 225 minutes of physical education per week	N/A	YES	9 th Grade
Provides intramural physical activity opportunities	YES	YES	YES
Offer facilities to families/community for physical activity opportunities	YES	YES	YES

Daily Recess. All elementary school students will have at least 10 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

Schools should discourage extended periods (*i.e.*, periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School. When possible, schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or programs. The high school and middle school as appropriate, will offer interscholastic sports programs. Schools will offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including boys, girls, students with disabilities, and students with special health-care needs.

After-school child care and enrichment programs will provide and encourage – verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and activities – daily periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity for all participants.

Activities currently offered: archery, jump rope club, track, cross-country, boys and girls basketball, football, cheerleading, fishing, tennis, volleyball, karate, golf, softball and baseball.

Physical Activity and Punishment. Teachers and other school and community personnel will not use physical activity (*e.g.*, running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (*e.g.*, recess, physical education) as punishment.

<u>Safe Routes to School</u>. The school district will assess and, if necessary and to the extent possible, make needed improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk to school. When appropriate, the district will work together with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments in those efforts.

<u>Use of School Facilities Outside of School Hours</u>. When possible, school spaces and facilities will be available to students, staff, and community members before, during, and after the school day, on weekends, and during school vacations. These spaces and facilities also should be available to community agencies and organizations offering physical activity and nutrition programs. School policies concerning safety will apply at all times.

V. Monitoring and Policy Review

Monitoring. The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance to the school district superintendent or designee.

School food service staff, at the district level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent.

The superintendent or designee will develop a summary report every three years on district-wide compliance with the district's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the district. That report will be provided to the school board and also distributed to all school health councils, school principals, and school health services personnel in the district.

Policy Review. To help with the initial development of the district's wellness policies, in June 2017 each school in the district conducted an assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies. The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the district level to identify and prioritize needs.

Assessments will be repeated annually to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the school district will review our nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. The district, and individual schools within the district, will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.