

School Wellness Policy

Pierce Street Elementary School

February 2023 – February 2024

Rationale:

The link between health of students and learning is well documented. If children are to be successful in school, they cannot be tired, hungry, sick, suffering from drug abuse, or worried that school is an unsafe environment in which they could become a victim of a violent act. It has become apparent that problems such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, obesity, bullying, and more can adversely affect, not only a child's health, but also his or her *ability to learn!* And that is precisely why a coordinated approach to school health can make a difference! A coordinated approach to school health improves kids' health and their capacity to learn through the support of families, schools, and communities working together. At its very core, a coordinated approach to school health is about keeping students healthy over time, reinforcing positive healthy behaviors throughout the day, and making it clear that *good health and learning go hand in hand.*

Goals:

All students in Pierce Street Elementary shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff members in Pierce Street Elementary School are encouraged to model a lifestyle of healthy eating patterns and moderate physical activity as a valuable part of their daily lives.

To meet this goal, the Pierce Street Elementary adopts this school wellness policy with the following commitments to implementing a coordinated approach to school health. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in culture.

In determining these goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness, the Pierce Street Elementary School Health Council has reviewed and considered evidence-based strategies.

Nutrition Environment and Services

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2001).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive food and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2002).
- Include goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities to promote student wellness.
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance *with* the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4011),
 - * Healthy food and beverage choices;
 - * Healthy food preparation;
 - * Marketing of healthy food choices to students, staff and parents;
 - * Food preparation ingredients and products;
 - * Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;
 - * Availability of food items during the lunch and breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Programs.
 - * Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. (See Nutrition Environment and Services section of the *Tools That Work – Your Guide to Success for Building a Healthy School* Toolkit that is found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>)
- Establish standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g. in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other food given as incentives).
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for the sale of food items for fundraising.
- Use Smart Snacks Resources to educate the school community about the importance of offering healthy snacks for students and staff members. Smart Snacks Product Calculator: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks>

- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Product Calculator is an effective online instrument that has been determined by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to be accurate in assessing product compliance with the federal requirements for Smart Snacks in Schools. The calculator can be used for food and beverage products. <https://www.healthiergeneration.org>

Food Safe Schools

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school sites.
HACCP Principles for K – 12 schools can be downloaded at:
<http://www.nfsmi.org/ResourcesOverview.aspx?ID=151>
- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with Fight Bac (www.fightbac.org) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in schools.
- Ensure that all staff has received instructions to support food safety on the school campus. Food Safety resources have been developed by the Office of Child Nutrition to assist with the training of school staff members. These resources, which include a training power-point presentation, Food Safety Post Test and Food Safety Post Test Answer Key can be found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>
- All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, foodservice staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the School Wellness Policy that includes food safety policies and procedures and provides for relevant professional development.
- Adequate access to hand-washing facilities and supplies will be available whenever and wherever students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Physical Education/Physical Activity

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary_School will:

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K – 8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, Mississippi Code of 1972, ann., reference -2014 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 27.1).
- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- Require fitness testing for high school students during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.

- Instruction must be based on 2013 – 2014 Mississippi Physical Education Frameworks.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007 (Senate Bill 2369).
- Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie unit in physical education.
- Beginning with 9th graders in school year 2015 – 2016, provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9 – 12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for physical education or health education. MS Code 37-13-134 (Senate Bill 2185)
- Address concussions by adopting and implementing a policy for students in grades 7 – 12 who participate in activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). This policy will include a concussion recognition course that has been endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Health. This course will provide information on the nature and risk of concussions for students participating in athletics. Also included in the policy, parents/guardians will be provided with a concussion policy before the start of regular school athletic season. (House Bill 48)
- Participate in a yearly fitness test for all students. Examples are : Fitness Gram or Presidential Youth Fitness Program
- Establish or enhance physical activity opportunities (like walking clubs or fitness challenges) for staff and /or parents.
- Collaborate with local recreational departments and youth fitness programs to promote participation in lifelong physical activities.

Links to resources to aid policy development and Office of Healthy Schools website:

www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/highschool.html#5

<http://www.misshsaa.com/GeneralInfo/SportsMedicine.aspx>

<http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>

STATE REQUIREMENTS MONITORED BY THE OFFICE OF HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Health Education

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Provide ½ Carnegie unit of health education for graduation (2012 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades 9 – 12 (2012 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 29, Appendix A).
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades K – 8.

- Implement the requirements of MS Code 37-13-171, which requires the development of a sex related education policy and instruction on medically accurate or evidence based abstinence-only or abstinence-plus curricula.
- Beginning with 9th graders in school year 2015 – 2016, provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9 – 12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for health education or physical education. MS Code 37-13-134 (Senate Bill 2185)
- Host a School Health Fair for students.

Health Services

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the 2013 *Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care*.
- Provide for teachers and staff training regarding signs and symptoms of asthma. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- Every child who has been diagnosed with asthma must have an asthma action plan on file in the school office.
- Know the district anaphylaxis policy. Providing training by a healthcare professional, preferably a school nurse, for the individuals that will be responsible for implementing the policy at the school site. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- The school nurse should submit health services data on the 10th of each month for the previous month.
- Offer comprehensive health services for students in grades k-12, through the employment of school nurses, as a means to academic success.
- Collaborate with other school staff to provide health services as a part of a Coordinated School Health Program.
- Work with students, parents, and local healthcare providers to effectively manage and treat chronic diseases.

Counseling, Psychological and Social Services/Social and Emotional Climate

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (436 or 451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and scores a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.

- Abide by Mississippi Code 37-9-79 (Amended 2014) as the school provides for counseling and guidance for students.
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, or, in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development. MS Code 37-9-79 - (Amended 2014 – Senate Bill 2423).
- Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:
 - * Academic and personal/social counseling.
 - * Student assessment and assessment counseling.
 - * Career and educational counseling.
 - * Individual and group counseling.
 - * Crisis intervention and preventive counseling.
 - * Beginning with the 2017 – 2018 school year, the State Department of Education shall require that local school districts conduct in-service training on suicide prevention education for all school district employees. Thereafter, only new employees are required to have training. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health will be responsible for developing the content of the training (HB 263).
 - * Referrals to community agencies.
 - * Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, and parents and community leaders.
 - * Education and career placement services.
 - * Follow-up counseling services.
 - * Conflict resolution.
 - * Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students as outlined by the American School Counselor Association.
 - * Provide additional services to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health.
 - * Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions, and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.
 - * Hire qualified counselors who will address the mental health, academic, and career needs of students in the school setting.

Family Engagement and Community Involvement

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Invite parents and community members to participate in school health planning by serving on the local School Health Council.
- Establish methods to inform and update the public regarding the LSWP and the assessment of the LSWP.
- Invite family or community members to eat a meal at school.

- Invite family and community volunteers to lead physical activities for children, such as lunchtime walkathons, weekend games, after-school programs, cheerleading, karate, aerobics, yoga, etc.
- Schedule school health fairs and invite parents and the public to attend.

Employee Wellness

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Provide all staff with the enhanced Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan, which includes *My Active Health*, a wellness and health promotion program designed to help individuals live a healthy lifestyle and increase their overall wellness benefit.
<http://www.MyActiveHealth.com/Mississippi>
- Provide all staff with information on the opportunity to join the North Mississippi Medical Center's Wellness Center at a reduced monthly cost with an employee paid assessment fee.
- Provide all staff with information on Tupelo Public School District provided clinical services by school nurses at specific school locations (designated sites per clinic location).
- Coordinate school employee wellness activities with student health-promotion activities.
- Organize employee walking teams or clubs.

Marketing a Healthy School Environment

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Eliminate advertising or promoting unhealthy food choices on the school campus. Advertising must be restricted to only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School Nutrition Standards.
- Provide positive, consistent, and motivating messages about healthy lifestyle practices throughout the school setting.
- Promote healthful eating, physical activity, and healthy lifestyle to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community at school events (e.g., school registration, parent-teacher conferences, PTA meetings, open houses, health fairs, teacher ins-services, and other events).

Implementation

Minimum requirements:

Pierce Street Elementary School will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to ensure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written. Pierce Street Elementary School designates Marrison Winders for this purpose.

- **Establish and support a School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).**
- **Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas for improvement.**
- **Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary to update and modify the program as appropriate.**

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D. C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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