

Local School Wellness

[The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires that the parents, students, Charter School staff, and the public be allowed to provide input on the development of this policy. This model policy is intended only as a starting point for this dialogue.]

It is the goal of the Victory Charter School to strive to make a significant contribution to the general well being, mental and physical capacity, and learning ability of each student and afford them the opportunity to fully participate in the education process. The Victory Charter School promotes a healthy school by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. The Charter School supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. By facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity, our Charter School contributes to the basic health status of children. Improved health optimizes student performance potential and ensures that no child is left behind.

Healthy eating is demonstrably linked to reduced morbidity and risk of mortality from many chronic diseases.

The Board of Directors directs the Principal to inform and update the public, including parents, students, and others in the community, about the content and implementation of the wellness policy. Such information may be provided on the Charter School website, through dissemination of student handbooks, or in any other manner the Principal may deem appropriate.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy the school day is defined as midnight before to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the instructional school day.

Goals for Wellness Promotion

The Charter School shall review and consider evidence-based approaches in establishing goals for school based activities to promote student wellness. This may include review of the “Smarter Lunchroom” tools and strategies.

To ensure the health and well being of all students, it is the policy of the Charter School to:

1. Ensure that foods sold at school during the school day meet or exceed the nutritional standards required by the USDA’s National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations. Exceptions can be made for infrequent food sales fundraisers that occur no more than the number of times determined appropriate by the Idaho State Department of Education during the school year and are not held during school meal times. Fundraisers will be tracked by a designee of the Principal;

2. Ensure that non-compliant and non-exempt fundraising food sales will not occur on Charter School grounds during the school day. The Charter School operates under United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program regulations of the National School Lunch Program, National School Breakfast Program, and the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations. These regulations apply to food sold during the school day in school stores, vending machines, and other venues. (Note: There are many healthy fundraising options available to the Charter School including selling books, fresh produce, school spirit merchandise, or other non-food items during the school day. Fundraising activities involving the sale of food consumed outside of the Charter School, such as frozen pizza sales, are exempt from the nutrition standards.);
3. Ensure that celebrations that involve food during the school day be limited to no more than one party per class per month and that each party include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for Smart Snacks in Schools The Charter School will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

[Note: The USDA has no role in regulating foods brought from home, but schools are required to set nutrition guidelines for foods served at school other than those that are sold. The Smart Snacks in Schools standards only affect foods that are sold on school grounds during the school day. Time honored traditions like treats for birthdays, or foods at an afterschool sporting event, are not subject to those standards.];

The Charter School shall also take measures to promote nutrition and physical activity, engage in nutrition education, and conduct wellness activities. For this purpose, the Charter School may:

1. Ensure that all Charter School schools become certified as a Healthier US Schools Challenge schools and/or enroll as a Team Nutrition schools;
2. Host at least one health fair each year;
3. Draft and regularly distribute a wellness newsletter for students and parents;
4. Review Smarter Lunchroom Movement best practices and evaluate each school's ability to implement them;
5. Promote healthy eating patterns through classroom nutrition education coordinated with the comprehensive health education program including education, health, and food services;
6. Provide 120 minutes of physical education per week to elementary students and to middle school students;
7. Offer a recognition or reward program for students who exhibit healthy behaviors.
8. Start a walking or physical activity club at each school;
9. Offer at least 4 after school physical activity programs;
10. Ensure student have access to hand-washing facilities prior to meals;
11. Annually evaluate the marketing and promotion of the school meal program;
12. Share school meal nutrition information with students and families;
13. Offer students taste-testing or menu planning opportunities;
14. Participate in Farm to School activities and/or have a school garden;

15. Advertise and promote nutritious foods and beverages on school grounds;
16. Offer nutritious foods and beverages at lower prices than other foods and beverages;
17. Offer fruits or non-fried vegetables everywhere foods are sold;
18. Use student feedback to improve the quality of the school meal programs;
19. Offer a staff wellness program;
20. Provide Charter School staff with adequate pre-service and ongoing in-service training that focuses on program administration, nutrition, physical activity, safety, the importance of modeling healthy behaviors, and strategies for behavioral change; and
21. Participate in community partnerships to support wellness programs, projects, events, or activities.

Nutrition Standards

To promote student health and reduce childhood obesity, the Charter School shall comply with the nutrition standards established by the USDA with respect to all food that is available on school grounds during the school day.

Community Participation

The Charter School shall invite parents, students, representatives of the Charter School food authority, teachers of physical education, Charter School health professionals, the Board of Directors, Charter School administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review of this policy.

The Principal shall annually make available to the public the content of the policy and an assessment on the implementation of this policy including:

1. The extent to the Charter School is in compliance with the wellness policy;
2. The extent to which the Charter School's wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies;
3. A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.

Methods of providing this information to the public may include developing or disseminating printed or electronic materials to families of school children and other members of the Charter School community at the beginning of the school year, or posting the local wellness policies and an assessment of their implementation on the Charter School website. The assessment of the implementation of the policy shall be conducted at least once every three years.

Record Retention

The Charter School shall retain the following records relating to the wellness policy:

1. The written local school wellness policy;
2. Documentation demonstrating the community was involved in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the wellness policy;

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Charter School Nutrition Committee

With the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the Charter School's wellness policies, evaluating policy progress, serving as a resource at the Charter School site, and revising the policies as necessary, a Charter School nutrition committee is hereby established to develop, implement, monitor, and review Charter School nutrition and physical activity policies. The Board of Directors specifically acknowledges that community participation is essential to the development and implementation of successful school wellness policies.

Following initial development, the committee will meet a minimum of 1 time annually for continued assessment.

Committee membership will consist of:

1. Charter school food service coordinator;
2. Dietician;¹
3. Parent representative;
4. Student representative;
5. Staff member representative;
6. Administrative representative acting as co-chair; and
7. Physical education and health program leader acting as co-chair.

Appointments to the committee will be made by the Board Chair.

Development

To help with the initial development of the wellness policies, the Charter School will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies. The results of those assessments will be compiled to identify and prioritize needs.

Monitoring

The Principal or his or her designee will ensure compliance with established Charter School nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

School food service staff will also ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the Principal.

¹ If there is no dietitian, the Charter School might consider negotiation with the local hospital or health district to secure the services of an outpatient dietitian. The dietitian could serve as an integral member of the Charter School health advisory team and screen and assess students' nutritional status and provide counseling, referral and follow-up services.

The Principal or designee will develop a summary report every 3 years on Charter School-wide compliance with the school's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies based on input from the school. That report will be provided to the Board and may also be distributed to school health councils, parent/teacher organizations, the Principal, and school health services personnel in the Charter School.

Legal Reference: Sec. 204, Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004

Policy History:

Adopted on: April 24, 2014

Revised on: June 27, 2018

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Food Services

The Charter School supports the philosophy of the National School Lunch Program and shall provide wholesome, appetizing, and nutritious meals for children in the Charter School. Because of potential liability to the Charter School, the foodservices program shall not accept donations of food without the approval of the Board of Directors and the appropriate agency such as the local public health district and/or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Should the Board approve a food donation, the Principal shall establish inspection and handling procedures for the food and determine that the provisions of all State and local laws have been met and consult with local public health districts before selling the food as part of the school meals.

Community Involvement

The Charter School shall promote activities to involve students and parents in the school lunch program. Such activities may include teaching students about good nutrition practices and involving the school faculty and the general community in activities to enhance the program.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods

The Charter School shall use USDA foods made available under the Federal Food Distribution Program for school meals.

Qualifications of Charter School Food Service Staff

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the Charter School meal programs. As part of the Charter School's responsibility to operate a foodservice program, continuing professional development opportunities may be provided to select Charter School nutrition professionals. These development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, the nutrition manager, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility. The Charter School may work with the School Nutrition Association for such professional development offerings.

Free and Reduced Price Food Services

The Charter School shall provide free and reduced price meals to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The Charter School shall inform parents of the eligibility standards for free or reduced price meals. The identity of students receiving free or

reduced price meals will be confidential in accordance with the guidelines for the NSLP. A parent has the right to appeal any decision with respect to his or her application for free or reduced price food services to a designated hearing official.

The amount charged for such meals shall be sufficient to cover all costs of the meals, including preparation labor, food costs, handling costs, utility costs, and equipment depreciation costs.

Every effort is to be made to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Toward this end, the availability of school meals to all students will be promoted and electronic identification of students and payment systems utilized where feasible.

Summer Food Service Program

If more than fifty percent (50%) of the Charter School's students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, the Charter School may sponsor the Summer Food Service Program.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. National School Lunch Act
7 CFR Parts 210.12 Student, Parent, and Community Involvement

Policy History:

Adopted on: December 8, 2015

Revised on:

Food Service Lunch Payment Procedure

The following procedure shall be followed when charging a lunch for a student is necessary:

1. Students may charge a full lunch, paid for by a donation from the school administrator.
2. Repayment for a charged lunch must be within 24 hours.
3. Parents are encouraged to set up an account at ezschoollpay.com, which will send notifications of their student's account balance.
4. Parents will be notified by the school when their child has a charge on their account.
5. Student report cards will be held until all charges are paid.
6. Adults are strongly discouraged from charging.

Procedure History:

Adopted on: January 23, 2014

Revised on: December 8, 2015

Revised on: August 22, 2017

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Nutrition Standards

The Charter School shall provide school meals which meet or exceed the nutritional standards required by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program regulations of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the National School Breakfast Program (SBP). Additionally, the Charter School shall comply with requirements of the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 and the Smart Snacks in Schools standards with regard to the nutritional content of all food sold or provided by the school, including school meals, *a la carte* items, foods sold from vending machines, and foods sold for fundraisers. The Charter School permits the sale or distribution of nutrient dense, Smart Snack compliant foods for all school functions and activities as well as non-food items. Nutrient dense foods are those foods that provide students with calories rich in the nutrient content needed to be healthy. In an effort to support the consumption of nutrient dense foods in the school setting the Charter School has adopted the federal nutrition standards cited above for the sale of foods and beverages on school grounds.

The standards focus on reducing sugar, sodium, and high-fat foods and increasing healthy food items like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables.

Calorie Range: The School shall ensure the meals offered to children comply with USDA calorie levels.

Trans Fat: The School shall eliminate foods containing trans-fat on the nutrition label.

Whole Grains: All grain offerings shall be whole grain rich.

Fruits and Vegetables: The School shall offer, at a minimum, one fruit on all points of service for breakfast. The School shall offer at least one fruit and one non-fried vegetable at all points of lunch service each day. The School shall offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables when possible.

Milk: The School shall offer fat-free and low-fat unflavored milk at all points of service. The School may not sell 2% and whole milk. Flavored milk offerings must be low fat or skim milk.

Water: The School shall make water available to students during meal service free of charge.

Legumes: The School shall offer legumes (dry beans and peas) at least one time per week along with other required vegetable subgroups.

Sodium: The School shall limit sodium to meet NSLP and SBP standards.

Condiments: The School shall not have salt shakers or packets available. The School shall not have sugar dispensers or packets available. The School shall accurately reflect condiment usage in nutrient analysis and on production records. The School is encouraged to use low-fat condiments and/or control portions of high-fat condiments.

Cross Reference: 2305 Nutrition Services
8250 Guidelines for Food and Beverages Sales

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. National School Lunch Act
7 CFR Parts 210 Nutrition School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs:
Final Rule
Smart Snacks in School Regulations by the United States Department of
Agriculture
Smart Snacks in School Policy by the Idaho State Department of Education—
Child Nutrition Programs

Other Reference: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/sch0mp/snacks.html>

Policy History:

Adopted on: December 8, 2015

Revised on: February 22, 2017

Revised on: December 10, 2019

Water Consumption/Water Bottle Policy

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of water consumption and encourages increased consumption of water throughout the day. Staff members should be particularly sensitive to student needs for water during periods of hot weather. Students shall be allowed to carry water bottles during the school day in accordance with this policy. Teachers may need to call for extra water breaks too. Even during periods of moderate temperature, staff members should remind students of the value of consuming water.

In addition, water sales should be a significant option through Charter School vending and concession services. Water should be available during mealtimes, at least through water fountains.

Water Bottles

When students bring water bottles for use during school:

1. Water bottles must be clear and have secure caps;
2. Students may not share water bottles;
3. Empty bottles should, on a regular basis, be recycled (if appropriate), discarded, or taken home for sanitized reuse;
4. Students misusing water bottles will be subject to disciplinary actions;
5. Teachers have discretion in determining classroom use;
6. Water bottles may not be used in computer labs, science labs, or the library; and
7. Water bottles may not be refilled during classroom instruction.

Policy History:

Adopted on: April 24, 2018

Revised on:

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School Meals

This policy supports the mission of the Charter School: Providing an environment that cultivates maximum student potential. Nutrition influences a child's development, health, well-being, and potential for learning. To afford students the opportunity to fully participate in the educational process, students must attend school with minds and bodies ready to take advantage of their learning environment. This nutrition policy encourages all members of the Charter School community to create an environment that supports lifelong healthy eating habits. Decisions made in all Charter School programming need to reflect and encourage positive nutrition messages and healthy food choices.

National School Lunch Program

1. The full meal program will follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Nutrition Standards as well as Smart Snacks in Schools standards, and offer a variety of fruits and vegetables. All of the grains served shall be whole grain;
2. The meals served will be appealing and attractive to children; and
3. NSLP provider shall follow the Nutrition Standards for these programs when determining the items in a la carte sales.

Lunchroom Climate

1. A lunchroom environment that provides students with a relaxed, enjoyable climate should be developed; and
2. It is encouraged that the lunchroom environment be a place where students have adequate space to eat and pleasant surroundings.

Meal Times and Scheduling Recommendations

The Charter School, to the greatest extent possible:

1. Should provide students with at least twenty (20) minutes to eat after sitting down for lunch;
2. Meal periods should be scheduled at appropriate times. For instance, lunch should be scheduled between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM;
3. Tutoring, club meetings, and organizational meetings or activities should not be scheduled during mealtimes unless students may eat during such activities;
4. **[FOR ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS]** Lunch periods should follow recess periods;

5. Students should have access to hand washing or hand sanitizing facilities before they eat meals or snacks; and
6. Reasonable steps should be taken to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs, such as orthodontia or high tooth decay risk.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. National School Lunch Act
7 CFR Parts 210 Nutrition School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs:
Final Rule
Smart Snacks in School Regulations by the United States Department of
Agriculture

Policy History:

Adopted on: December 8, 2015

Revised on:

Victory Charter School

NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

8250

Guidelines for Food and Beverages Sales

This policy shall apply to all foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte snack lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.

The Charter School encourages the use of nutrient dense foods for all school functions and activities. Nutrient dense foods are those foods that provide students with calories rich in the nutrient content needed to be healthy. At any Charter School functions, such as parties, celebrations, feasts, or sporting events, healthy food options should be available. All foods will adhere to Smart Snack regulations, unless approved by an administrator as an exemption.

FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS The Charter School food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food should be sold as balanced meals. If available, foods and beverages sold individually should be limited to low-fat and non-fat milk, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS All foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs; including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities; during the school day will meet the nutrition standards found in the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations.

Vending Machines

The Board of Directors has determined that there shall be no installations of vending machines except as approved by the Principal. The Principal will have the authority to determine whether such machines may be installed, where they will be placed, and during which hours they might be used. All revenue produced from this source shall be deposited in the designated activity fund as approved by the Board. Revenues may be spent only on those purposes for which general revenue may be expended.

All vending sales shall comply with the standards of the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations and documentation of compliance shall be retained.

Snacks

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 water as the primary beverage and will meet the standards of the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations. The Charter School will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other

considerations. The Charter School will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

If eligible, the Charter School will pursue receiving reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program for snacks provided through after-school programs.

Fundraising Activities and Concessions

Any fundraising requires administrative approval and will be tracked.

Any food items sold at the school site during the school day, defined as from midnight until a half-hour after the end of the instructional day, and intended for consumption there must meet the requirements of the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations, except for exempt fundraisers. The number of exempt fundraisers held annually may not exceed the number established by the Idaho State Department of Education unless special permission is granted by the State Department of Education.

Any fundraising activities that involve foods not intended for consumption in schools, such as the sale of cookie dough or frozen pizza outside of school shall be also be exempt.

Foods sold at exempt fundraisers may not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during any meal service. To create a school environment that supports the promotion of healthy food and beverage choices for children, it is important to consider all venues where food and beverages are consumed or sold. The following recommendations are made to promote healthy choices for children related to fund-raising activities supported by the Charter School:

1. Offer only non-food items that raise funds such as books, gift wrap, candles, plants, flowers, school promotional items, etc.; and
2. Whenever food and beverages are sold that raise funds for the Charter School, through fundraisers exempted as outlined above, include healthy food choices as well.

Organizations operating concessions at Charter School functions should include healthy food choices in their offerings. It is recommended that groups market these healthy options at a lower price to encourage selection by students. If these food and beverages are consumed on school grounds, during the school day, and are not exempt fundraisers, they must comply with the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations.

Charter School-Sponsored Events

Foods and beverages sold at school-sponsored events during the school day, from midnight until a half-hour after the end of the instructional day, and held on school grounds (such as, but not limited to, athletic events, dances, or performances) will meet the nutrition standards outlined in the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations, unless they are exempt fundraisers as described above. However, the Smart Snacks in Schools standards do not apply to items sold during non-school hours.

Cross Reference: 3420 Student Fund Raising Activities

Legal Reference: Smart Snacks in School Regulations by the United States Department of Agriculture

Other Reference: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/nslp/smartSnacks.htm>

Policy History:

Adopted on: December 8, 2015

Revised on: February 22, 2017