

WELLNESS POLICY

[NOTE: Not later than the first day of the school year beginning after June 30, 2006, all school districts that receive funding from the federal school lunch program are required by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 ("the Act") to have a Wellness Policy that includes nutrition guidelines, goals for nutrition education, and physical activity to promote student wellness. The Act requires the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and the public in the development of the wellness policy. The Act also requires a plan for measuring implementation of the policy and the designation of at least one person charged with operational responsibility for ensuring the school district is in compliance with the policy. The Act provides for technical assistance and information from the Secretary of Agriculture to aid state and local educational agencies and school food authorities in establishing healthy school nutrition environments, reducing childhood obesity, and preventing diet-related chronic diseases.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The school board recognizes that nutrition education and physical education are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and education.

B. The school environment should promote and protect students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.

C. The school encourages the involvement of students, parents, teachers, food service staff, and other interested persons, in implementing, monitoring, and reviewing school nutrition and physical activity policies.

D. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.

E. All students in grades K-6 will have opportunities, support,

F. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try to 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.

G. The school recognizes that other school-based activities related to students' safety, security, and other physical and mental health issues are designed to promote overall student wellness.

III. GUIDELINES

A. Foods and Beverages

[NOTE: The Act requires that school districts have nutrition guidelines selected by the school district for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing student obesity.]

1. All foods and beverages made available to students on campus will be consistent with the current Food Guide Pyramid and USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

2. Food service personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet or exceed all federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.

3. Food service personnel shall adhere to all federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.

4. The school will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

[NOTE: The Act requires that the school districts' wellness policy provide an assurance that guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to the Child Nutrition Act and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as the regulations apply to schools.]

5. The school will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.

6. The school will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.

B. School Food Service Program / Personnel

1. The school will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that strictly comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations.

2. The school shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the schools' food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on the school campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

3. As part of the schools' responsibility to operate a food service program, the school will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel.

C. Nutrition Education and Promotion

[NOTE: The Act requires that wellness policies include goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness in a manner that the school district determines is appropriate.]

1. The school will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is:

- a. Offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- b. Part of health education classes as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and
- c. Enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as taste testing and field trips.

2. The school will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages.

3. The school will allow specific foods or beverages that are consistent with promoting healthy eating habits that incorporate the concepts of balance and moderation as rewards for academic performance or good behavior.

4. The school will not withhold food or beverages as a form of punishment.

D. Physical Activity

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, physical education and health education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate.

3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, where appropriate.

4. Physical activity that endangers a child's health or well being will not be permitted.

E. Other School-Based Activities

1. The school will engage in safety and security education, such as school-wide drills, safety presentations, and crime prevention.

2. The school will provide other physical and mental health education as appropriate, such as character development and sex education.

F. Communications with Parents

1. The school recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary and fundamental role in promoting and protecting their children's health and well-being.
2. The school will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
3. The school encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.
4. The school will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

[NOTE: The Act requires that the wellness policy establish a plan for measuring the implementation of the policy, including designation of at least one or more persons within the school district charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements of the wellness policy.]

A. After approval by the school board, the Wellness Policy will be implemented throughout the school.

B. School food service staff will ensure compliance within the school food service areas and will report to the school food service program administrator, the executive director, or the director's designee, as appropriate.

C. The school food service program administrator will provide an annual plan to the executive director setting forth the nutrition guidelines and procedures for selection of all foods made available on campus.

D. The executive director will ensure compliance with the Wellness Policy and will provide an annual report of the school's compliance with the policy to the school board.

Legal References:

42 USC - 1751 et seq. (Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act)

42 USC - 1771 et seq. (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)

PL 108-265 (2004) - 204 (Local Wellness Policy)

7 CFR - 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)

7 CFR - 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)