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**WHEREAS**, the Mission of Hutto ISD includes “inspiring excellence in academics, character, and community”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hutto ISD strategic plan (3.2) accentuates a goal of “a safe and positive physical, social and emotional culture that extends into the community”. where “every decision should be made in the best interest of students.”

**WHEREAS**, Texas Senate Bill 530 requires the local school health advisory council to consider and make policy recommendations to the District concerning the importance of daily recess for elementary school students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hutto ISD School Health Advisory Council has considered research on the positive health and social development benefits, as well as academic benefits of recess and unstructured and undirected play; and

**WHEREAS**, recess specifically provides children with discretionary time to engage in physical activity that helps to develop healthy bodies, healthy minds and the enjoyment of movement as well as opportunities to practice life skills such as conflict resolution, cooperation, taking turns, sharing, and problem-solving; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hutto ISD School Health Advisory Council has considered that local community values are reflected in any recommendation made by the Council; and

**WHEREAS**, recess, while separate and distinct from physical education, is an essential component of the total educational experience for elementary aged children.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based on this information, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hutto Independent School District (HISD) School Health Advisory Council recommends the following recess policy for all Hutto ISD elementary schools:

1. Elementary school students in HISD shall be provided with a minimum of 30 minutes of supervised unstructured recess time per day in addition to the 135 minutes of structured physical activity time per week that is currently mandated under SB530.

2. All elementary staff shall receive annual professional development provided by campus administration on outdoor safety guidelines specific to their campus, as well as structured versus unstructured time, and to include the following recess guidelines:

-Recess should not replace physical education. Recess is supervised unstructured playtime where children have choices, develop rules for play, and release energy and stress.



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-Hutto ISD elementary schools should develop schedules that provide for supervised, daily recess of at least 30 min each school day, in addition to the 135 minutes of physical education they receive each week.

-Recess should be viewed as a necessary educational support component for all elementary aged children. Therefore Recess will not be taken away as a disciplinary consequence.

-Hutto Independent School District should provide the supervision, facilities, and equipment necessary to ensure the recess experience is safe, productive, and enjoyable.

3. These Recess guidelines should be made available to parents by the campus upon request.