

Non-Instructional/Business

Operations

SUBJECT: WELLNESS

The District is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn, by fostering healthy eating and physical activity before, during, and after the school day. This wellness policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. This wellness policy applies to all students, staff, and schools in the District.

Definitions

For the purpose of this wellness policy, the concept of wellness encompasses the following:

- Physical
 - Nutrition, exercise
- Intellectual
 - A good education, motivation, a desire to learn
- Emotional
 - Self-regulation, awareness, identifying one's emotions
- Social
 - Effective use of electronics, healthy ways to interact with peers, feeling of belonging, increased socialization, empathy for others
- Positive Environment
 - Everyone is an individual, pursue activities with choices for individuals

For clarification purposes:

- School campus means all areas of property under the jurisdiction of the District that are accessible to students during the school day.
- School day means the period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

Governance

District Wellness Committee

The District has established a wellness committee that is needed to oversee and establish goals for school health and safety policies and programs, including the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this District-level wellness policy. The District Wellness Committee will evaluate and make recommendations that reflect the specific needs of the District and its students.

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The District will actively seek members for the District Wellness Committee through the use of email, newsletters, the District's website, the District's social media page(s), and/or advertisements.

The District Wellness Committee membership will represent all school levels, and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to, representatives from the following groups:

- a) Parents and caregivers;
- b) Students;
- c) Physical Education teachers;
- d) School health professionals;
- e) District food service program representatives;
- f) School Board;
- g) School administrators;
- h) General Education teachers;
- i) Members of the public.

District Wellness Leadership

The following District official(s) is/are responsible for the implementation and oversight of this District-level wellness policy:

Superintendent

The contact information for this/these individual(s) is:

sgratto@newpaltz.k12.ny.us or 845-256-4020

This individual will be referred to as District Wellness Coordinator(s) throughout this wellness policy.

The District Wellness Coordinator(s) will convene the District Wellness Committee, facilitate the development of and updates to this wellness policy, and serve as liaison(s) with community agencies. The District Wellness Coordinator(s) will also work to ensure each school's compliance with this wellness policy.

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Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, and Community Engagement

The District will develop and maintain an implementation plan to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and timelines specific to each school. It also includes specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. In developing these goals, the District will review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will inform families and the general public each year, via the District website and/or District-wide communications, of information about this wellness policy, including, but not limited to: its implementation status, its content, and any updates to the policy. The District will endeavor to share as much information as possible about its schools' nutrition environment, including a summary of school events or activities relative to this wellness policy implementation. Each year, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District official(s) leading and coordinating the District Wellness Committee, as well as information on how the community may get involved with the District Wellness Committee.

Wellness Policy Assessment

The district wellness policy will be evaluated each year at the end of the year by the wellness committee.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

This wellness policy may be updated as: District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information and technology emerge; and/or new federal or state guidance or standards are issued.

Evaluation and feedback from interested parties are welcomed as an essential part of revising and updating this wellness policy.

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with an awareness of this wellness policy. On an annual basis, the District will make this wellness policy available to families and the public. The District will also annually inform families and the public, in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways, of its content and implementation status, as well as any updates to this wellness policy. The District will make this information available via the District website and/or District-wide communications. The District will use these same means to inform families and the public on how to become involved with and support this wellness policy.

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Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of this wellness policy in the District Office and/or on the District's central computer network. Documentation maintained at this location includes, but is not limited to:

- a) The written wellness policy;
- b) Documentation demonstrating that this wellness policy has been made available to the public;
- c) Documentation of efforts to review and update this wellness policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the District uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the District Wellness Committee;
- d) Documentation demonstrating compliance with the annual public notification requirements;

Nutrition

The District seeks to ensure all of its students obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food selections and enjoy life-long physical activity. To this end, the District sets forth the following goals relating to nutrition.

School Meals

The District is committed to promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity by:

- a) Serving meals that meet or exceed nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal laws and regulations;
- b) Ensuring all students have a scheduled lunch period;
- c) Providing all students with adequate time to consume meals;
- d) Promoting healthy food and beverage choices;
- e) Preparing meals that are appealing and attractive to students;
- f) Serving meals in clean and pleasant settings;
- g) Encouraging student participation in [federal Child Nutrition Programs](#).

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Child Nutrition Programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

All schools within the District participate in the [National School Lunch Program](#), the [School Breakfast Program](#), and the [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#).

District food service staff will survey students annually to solicit feedback on the school breakfast and/or school lunch program(s). Students will have the opportunity to provide input on local, cultural and ethnic favorites.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education and training requirements as specified in the USDA Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals. In order to locate the training that best fits their learning needs, school nutrition personnel will refer to the [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards](#) website.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students and staff throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during meal times.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

All competitive foods will meet, at a minimum, the [USDA Smart Snacks in School Nutrition Standards](#). The Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards aim to promote student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthy foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits.

Competitive foods include all food and beverages available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day other than meals reimbursed through programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell [National School Lunch Act](#) and the [Child Nutrition Act of 1966](#). This includes, but is not limited to, a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, and snack or food carts.

Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold, to Students During the School Day

The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The District will encourage parents to consider student health when purchasing the foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day (e.g., classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).

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Fundraising

All foods and beverages available for sale to students through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day will meet, at a minimum, the [USDA Smart Snacks in School Nutrition Standards](#). School-sponsored fundraisers conducted outside of the school day will be encouraged to support the goals of this wellness policy by promoting the sale of healthy food items (fresh fruit and produce) and/or non-food items, such as water bottles, plants, etc., and by promoting events involving physical activity.

Food and Beverages Marketing in Schools

All foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet, at a minimum, the [USDA Smart Snacks in School Nutrition Standards](#). Food marketing commonly includes oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product.

Nutrition Promotion and Education

Nutrition promotion and education positively influences lifelong eating behaviors. The District will model and encourage healthy eating by:

- a) Promoting healthy food and beverage choices for all students by using techniques which guide students toward healthful choices, as well as by ensuring that 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards;
- b) Promoting nutrition education activities that involve parents, students, and the community;
- c) Promoting school and community awareness of this wellness policy through various means, such as publication on the District website;
- d) Encouraging and promoting wellness through social media and newsletters;
- e) Encouraging participation in federal [Child Nutrition Programs](#);
- f) Ensuring that the marketing and advertising of foods and beverages on school campuses during the school day is consistent with nutrition education and health promotion;
- g) Integrating nutrition education within the comprehensive health education curriculum and other instructional areas, as appropriate. Nutrition education follows applicable [New York State standards](#) and is designed to help students acquire:

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1. Nutrition knowledge, including, but not limited to: the benefits of healthy eating; essential nutrients; nutritional deficiencies; principles of healthy weight management; the use and misuse of dietary supplements; and safe food storage, handling, and preparation; and
 2. Nutrition-related skills, including, but not limited to: planning healthy meals; understanding and using food labels; critically evaluating nutrition information, misinformation, and commercial food advertising; assessing personal eating habits; and setting and achieving goals related to these concepts;
- h) Providing families and teachers with a list of healthy party ideas, including non-food celebration ideas;
 - i) Providing families with a list of classroom snacks and beverages that meet [USDA Smart Snacks in School](#) nutrition standards;
 - j) Discouraging staff from using food as a reward or withholding food as punishment under any circumstance – teachers and other appropriate school staff will be provided with a list of alternative ways to reward students; and
 - k) Encouraging District staff to model healthy eating, drinking, and physical activity behaviors for students.
 - l) Snacks in aftercare are served via the [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and meet the requirements of that program.
 - m) Nutrition topics shall be integrated within the comprehensive health education curriculum and taught in the grades 6-8.
 - n) Instructional staff are encouraged to integrate nutritional themes into daily lessons when appropriate.
 - o) School gardens and nutrition instruction are encouraged as part of the academic curriculum.
 - p) Healthy choices, such as salads and fruit, will be prominently displayed in the cafeteria to encourage students to make healthy choices.

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Physical Activity and Education

Physical Activity

Since physical activity affects students' emotional and physical well-being, as well as their cognitive development, the District is committed to ensuring that all students, including students with disabilities requiring adaptations or modifications, are provided the opportunity to participate in physical activity before, during, and after school. Physical activity opportunities will be in addition to, not in lieu of, physical education.

Recess, physical education, or other physical activity time will not be canceled for instructional make-up time. This does not include participation on sport teams that may have specific academic requirements. Classroom teachers will be provided with a list of ideas for alternative ways to discipline students.

The District is committed to encouraging physical activity through the following:

a) Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)

All classroom teachers, and particularly those engaged in the instruction of K through 5 students, are strongly encouraged to incorporate into the school day short breaks for students that include physical activity, especially after long periods of inactivity.

b) Recess (Elementary)

All elementary students will be offered one daily period of recess for a minimum of 20 minutes. This requirement will not apply on days where students arrive late, leave early, or are otherwise on campus for less than a full day. Outdoor recess will be offered when weather permits.

c) Active Academics

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate kinesthetic learning approaches into core learning subjects when possible to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

d) Before and After School Activities

The District will offer opportunities for all students to participate in physical activity before and/or after the school day through various methods, such as physical activity clubs, intramurals, and interscholastic sports.

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e) Active Transport

The District supports active transport to and from school, i.e. walking or biking. The District will encourage this behavior by securing storage facilities for bicycles and equipment and instructing students on walking and bicycling safety. The District strongly encourages the use of appropriate protective wear, such as helmets for the district's students who ride their bikes to school.

f) Elementary schools are encouraged to provide 80 - 120 minutes per week of physical education instruction.

g) Students should have the opportunity to be physically active before and after school.

Physical Education

The District will have a Board-approved [Physical Education Plan](#) on file with the New York State Education Department that meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in the Commissioner's regulations. All students will be required to fulfill the physical education requirements set forth in the Commissioner's regulations as a condition of graduating from the District's schools.

The District recognizes the importance of physical education classes in providing students with meaningful opportunities for physical exercise and development. Consequently, the District will ensure that:

- a) All physical education classes are taught or supervised by a certified physical education teacher.
- b) All physical education staff receive professional development relevant to physical education on an annual basis.
- c) Interscholastic sports, intramural sports, and recess do not serve as substitutes for a quality physical education program.
- d) Students are afforded the opportunity to participate in moderate to vigorous activity for at least 50% of physical education class time.
- e) It provides adequate space and equipment for physical education and conforms to all applicable safety standards.
- f) An age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education is implemented, with a focus on students' development of motor skills, movement forms, and health-related fitness.
- g) A physical and social environment is provided that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students.

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- h) Activities or equipment are adapted or modified to meet the needs of students who are temporarily or permanently unable to participate in the regular program of physical education. In doing so, the District will abide by specific provisions in 504 Plans and/or individualized education programs (IEP). To that end, the Committee on Special Education (CSE) will ensure that a certified physical education teacher participates in the development of a student's IEP, if the student may be eligible for adapted physical education.
- i) The school district prohibits students from substituting other school or community activities for physical education time or credit in place of required physical education.

Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness

The District is committed to establishing a school environment that is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity for all. The District will, therefore, pursue the following:

Promotion of District & Building Wellness Successes

School buildings continue to promote wellness and health with the following initiatives:

- Duzine and Lenape Elementary School have teacher/student created gardens
- The Middle School has created a donation box for unused and untarnished fruit to be donated to Families of New Paltz (a local organization that supports families and individuals in need)
- The High School has embraced the introduction of Hummus Wraps and Veggie Burgers onto their daily menu.

Community Partnerships

The District will work to develop, enhance, and continue relationships with community partners in support of the implementation of this wellness policy. Existing and new community partnerships will be evaluated to ensure they are consistent with this wellness policy and its goals.

Community Access to District Facilities for Physical Activities

School grounds and facilities will be made available to students, staff, community members and organizations, and agencies offering physical activity and nutrition programs consistent with District policy. Subject to provisions regarding conduct on school grounds and administrative approval of use by outside organizations.

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Professional Learning

When feasible, the District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing District reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

42 USC Sections 1758, 1758b

7 CFR Sections 210.10, 210.11, 210.18, 210.31, and 220.8

USDA, SP 24-2017, Local School Wellness Policy: Guidance and Q&As (Apr. 6, 2017)

81 Fed. Reg. 50,151 (July 29, 2016) (codified at 7 CFR parts 210 & 220)

Education Law Section 915

8 NYCRR Section 135.4

Memorandum from N.Y. St. Educ. Department on Smart Snacks Standards and Fundraisers (Sept. 16, 2014)

Adoption Date 6/04/2025