

The State Schools (including the Office of State Schools and the three State Schools) recognize that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn, including behavior and academic achievement in school. It is the policy of the State Schools to be committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects student wellness, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement. Staff wellness is also an integral component of a healthy school environment.

To the extent practicable, all State Schools shall participate in available federal school meal programs. All foods and beverages made available on campus during the school day shall be consistent with the requirements of federal law and regulations and state requirements. Guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the U.S. Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.

The Office of State Schools shall convene a State Schools Wellness Committee consisting of Office of State Schools representatives, State Schools representatives, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) and Blind and Visually Impaired (BVI) community representatives from areas designated in federal law to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review of school wellness program and procedures. The Wellness Committee shall develop procedures to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, where practicable, while taking into consideration differences in culture. Such procedures shall contain, at a minimum:

1. Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness;
2. Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available on campus during the school day that:
 - a. are consistent with federal meal pattern requirements and nutrition standards;
 - b. prohibit the sale to students on the school campus during the school day of competitive foods that do not meet the federal criteria; and,
 - c. adhere to the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010 and state requirements regarding exempt fundraisers.

3. Identification of the position of Office of State Schools and/or State School official(s) responsible for the oversight to ensure each school’s compliance with the wellness policy and procedures;
4. A description of the manner in which parents, students, and representatives of school food service staff, physical education teachers, school health professionals, the State Board, school administrators, and the general public are provided an opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the wellness policy; and
5. A description of the plan for measuring the implementation of the wellness policy and for reporting to the public its content and implementation issues.
6. Schools will support the integration of a Farm to School program as appropriate to facilitate the nutritional and educational goals of the school district.

The Office of State Schools shall ensure that each State School complies with the Wellness Policy; that periodic assessments and evaluations are conducted in accordance with state and federal timelines and other requirements; and, that appropriate updates or modifications are made as needed.

Office of State Schools

Date Adopted: 11/5/2021
 Last Revised: 6/18/2025

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State Reference

O.C.G.A 20-02-0066
 Rule 160-5-6-.01

Description

[School breakfast programs](#)
[Statewide School Nutritional Program](#)

Federal Reference

07 CFR 210.11
 07 CFR 210.12
 07 CFR 210.18
 07 CFR 210.31
 42 USC 1758
 42 USC 1758b
 42 USC Chapter 13
 42 USC Chapter 13A

Description

[Competitive Food Service and Standards](#)
[Student, parent, and community involvement](#)
[Administrative Reviews-School Nutrition](#)
[Local school wellness policy](#)
[Program requirements-School Lunch Programs](#)
[Local School Wellness Policy](#)
[School Lunch Programs](#)
[Child Nutrition](#)

In accordance with Policy EEE and after considering input from various stakeholders interested in the promotion of overall student and staff health and well-being, the following implementing procedures have been developed to promote student wellness.

The policy requires that the Office State Schools convene a State Schools Wellness Committee consisting of Office of State Schools representatives, State Schools representatives, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) and Blind and Visually Impaired (BVI) community representatives from areas designated in federal law to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review of school wellness programs and procedures. The Wellness Committee shall develop a Wellness Program consisting of the following components:

Component 1: Nutrition Promotion and Education: As it is the intent of the Policy that the State Schools will teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students, the Wellness Committee shall develop procedures by which the State Schools are able to provide nutrition education consistent with federal and state requirements and engage in nutrition promotion aimed at attaining the following goals:

- Students in grades Pre-K through 12 will receive sequential and interactive nutrition education focusing on skills needed to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle. This nutrition education, to include food safety, will be integrated into the health education curriculum or core curriculum (e.g., math, science, language arts).
- Students in grades Pre-K through 12 will receive, to the extent possible, consistent messages regarding nutrition throughout the school environment, including the classroom, cafeteria, home, community and media.
- Schools will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve parents, students, and teachers, and the DHH/BVI community as practicable.
- School Nutrition staff will coordinate with school staff, when appropriate, to allow the school cafeteria to serve as a learning lab.
- Schools will support the integration of a Farm to School program as appropriate to facilitate the nutritional and educational goals of the school district.

Component 2: Physical Activity: As it is the intent of the Policy that all students in grades K-12 have opportunities, support and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis, the State Schools will provide physical education consistent with federal and state

requirements and engage in promotion of physical activities aimed at attainment of certain physical education goals appropriate for each grade level. The Wellness Committee shall develop procedures by which school officials are able to provide physical activity consistent with federal and state requirements and engage in promotion of physical activity. These procedures shall contain and incorporate the following principles:

- Physical activity or recess is not to be used as a reward or punishment.
- Physical education includes instruction in individual activities as well as competitive and non-competitive team sports.
- Students participate in periodic fitness assessments.
- The school environment provides safe and enjoyable physical activities for all students.
- Schools will promote after-school physical activities through intramural and interscholastic programs.
- Patterns of physical activity are encouraged in students' lives outside of physical education and take into consideration the need for energy balance.
- Schools will work with families to assist them in incorporating safe physical activity into their daily lives.

Component 3: Other School Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness:

As it is the intent of the policy that all school community members should embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students should have opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education classes. It is the intent of the policy that schools will support parental efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children, will value the health and well-being of the school community by planning and implementing activities and procedures that support personal efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and will provide school-based marketing consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.

The Wellness Committee shall develop procedures related to other school-based activities to promote wellness aimed at attainment of goals for this purpose. The Wellness Committee shall include the following principles or components in the School Based Activities Component and will assist with implementation of the following:

- School-Level Superintendents will at least quarterly include an item on their leadership team meeting agendas for the purpose of evaluating the school environment pertaining to areas addressed in the policy and procedures.

- The Wellness Committee will develop a Student Wellness Action Plan for the purpose of implementing the Policy and Procedures.
- Teachers and other appropriate school staff will be provided with assistance in detecting student health problems that may impact learning and attendance.
- Information and/or professional learning opportunities that enhance the wellness program for students and improve staff physical well-being will be provided in each school.
- Schools should take reasonable steps to provide a safe, clean, and hygienic environment.
- Schools will provide counseling services to students throughout the year and assist students with accessing outside services when necessary to promote social and emotional wellness.

Component 4: Nutrition Standards and Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages

Available on Campus During the School Day: As it is the intent of the policy that, to the extent practical, all State Schools will participate in available federal school meal programs. Furthermore, all food and beverages made available on campus during the school day will be consistent with the requirements of federal and state law. The Wellness Committee shall develop procedures related to Nutrition Standards and Guidelines and shall include the following principles or components in the Nutrition Standards and Guidelines and will assist with implementation of the following:

- School staff should not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, particularly those foods with minimal nutritional value.
- Prohibit the withholding of food or beverages, including food served through school meals as punishment.
- Schools should encourage fundraisers that promote positive health habits such as the sale of non-food and nutritious food items as well as fundraising to support physical activities.
- Food offered to students outside of the School Nutrition Program should meet state and federal nutritional guidelines.
- Organizations should only use non-food items or foods designed for delivery and consumption as fundraisers before or after school hours.

- State Schools permit the marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Non-smart snack compliant items will not be promoted through flyers on the serving line or any other kind of advertisement on campus.

Component 5: Development, Implementation and Periodic Evaluation of the School

Wellness Program: As it is the intent of the policy for the State Schools to involve parents, students and representatives of the School Nutrition Program, the State Board, school administrators and the public in the development and implementation of a School Wellness Program, the following procedures will be followed for Implementation and Evaluation of the Program.

System-wide Implementation and Periodic Evaluation

- The Office of State Schools shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Wellness Program and compliance with the Policy, including the oversight of the development of goals of the Program and procedures for evaluation and measurement of the Program.
- The Office of State Schools will incorporate input on such procedures, goals and evaluation of the Program from a Wellness Committee, consisting of State Schools and DHH/BVI community representatives from areas designated in federal and state law as required wellness components. Such Committee members may include but are not limited to: Office of State Schools staff, School-level Superintendents, School Nutrition Program representative, teachers (physical education and others), parents, Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Blind and Visually Impaired (DHH/BVI) community members, school health care representatives and other concerned stakeholders.
- Committee members will be asked to make a commitment to serve on the committee for at least two (2) years. At the end of a member's service term, the Wellness Committee will take nominations for those wishing to serve on the Committee. Nomination forms will be posted on the Office of State Schools and each State School's website.
- The Wellness Committee will meet no less than two (2) times per year.
- Annually, the Wellness Committee will identify goals and objectives to measure Components of the Wellness Program.
- Annually, the Wellness Committee will develop an Evaluation Plan for each Component of the Wellness Program. The Evaluation Plan will identify objectives,

information to collect, responsibilities for data collection and the method of analysis.

- The Wellness Committee will use the annual Evaluation Results to create action plans for Program improvement and ongoing evaluation priorities.
- A report of the evaluation results will be conducted every three (3) years at minimum, which will be made available to the public on the Office of State Schools and each State School's website.
- The public will have an opportunity to provide input regarding development, implementation and periodic review of the policy to the Committee by way of survey available on the Office State Schools and each State School's website.

School Level Implementation and Periodic Evaluation

- The School-Level Superintendent shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Wellness Program at the school level, including the oversight of the implementation of goals of the Program and conducting evaluation and measurement of the Program, as requested by the System Wellness Committee.
- The School-Level Superintendents will at least quarterly include an item on their leadership team meeting agendas for the purpose of evaluating the school environment pertaining to areas addressed in the policy and procedures.

Office of State Schools

Date Issued: 6/18/2025
Original Date Issued: 11/5/2021