



Policy Number: 306

Policy Section: 300 – Student Services

Effective Date: January 15, 2026

WELLNESS POLICY

Statement of Policy

DaVinci Academy is committed to supporting the optimal development of every student by promoting environments that encourage lifelong physical, mental, and social well-being. Healthy students—physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially—demonstrate stronger academic performance, including improved grades, test scores, attendance, and cognitive functioning. Participation in programs such as the USDA School Breakfast Program and access to regular physical activity have been shown to directly support these outcomes.

Approximately 25% of children and adolescents live with chronic health conditions, including asthma, diabetes, seizure disorders, and oral-health issues, all of which can affect learning and daily classroom functioning. Many of these conditions can lead to increased absences and academic challenges.

Evidence also shows that healthy behaviors—balanced nutrition, physical activity, avoiding harmful substances, and receiving regular health screenings—can prevent or reduce the impact of chronic disease. School systems that support wellness create safer, healthier environments in which students can thrive.

Mental health is equally critical. One in five children experiences a debilitating mental illness at some point, and a similar proportion of Americans experience mental illness each year. Conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and schizophrenia can significantly affect a student’s ability to learn, socialize, and function at school. Risk factors include adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), chronic medical conditions, chemical imbalances, substance use, and social isolation.

DaVinci Academy affirms its responsibility to implement practices that support whole-child health and academic success. To achieve this, the school will engage families, staff, and community partners in creating consistent expectations for lifelong healthy habits across school and home settings.

DaVinci Academy will maintain a clear structure for managing, implementing, communicating, and evaluating its wellness efforts. Parents, students, food-service staff, educators, school health professionals, and administrators will be encouraged to participate in the development and ongoing assessment of the wellness policy, using self-evaluation tools as needed.



A key priority is improving the nutritional quality of school meals by significantly reducing processed foods. Breakfast and lunch offerings will prioritize whole, fresh ingredients and balanced nutrition rather than convenience or trends. If we are committed to creating safe, supportive environments through nutrition, physical activity, health services, and community engagement, our meal program must reflect that commitment.

Our goal is simple: ensure every student has meaningful opportunities to build lifelong healthy habits that strengthen physical, mental, and social well-being.

Nutrition

DaVinci Academy is committed to providing nutritious meals to students that offer an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products, provide zero grams of trans-fat per serving, and limit saturated fat and sodium per the USDA's reimbursable meal guidelines. Meal programs at DaVinci Academy shall seek to help children develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors, support healthy choices, and improve overall student health and well-being through the following policies and practices. We strive for our students to eat a complete and healthy meal to ensure the highest nutrition is served.

Nutrition Education

- Nutrition education is taught as part of the Utah Core Standards for Health Education in grades K-6, middle school, and high school as consistent with [R277-700](#).
- Nutrition curriculum is based on the Utah Core Standards for Health Education, which includes culturally and developmentally appropriate material.
- Nutrition education is incorporated into classroom instruction beyond health in subject areas such as mathematics, social sciences, language arts, and science.
- School nutrition services and health educators coordinate to link nutrition curriculum with activities in the cafeteria. The cafeteria is used to provide opportunities for students to apply lessons from the classroom and adopt healthy behaviors.
- DaVinci Academy has active chapters of agriculture education organizations and encourages student participation.
- Nutrition education and training are provided to teachers and other staff to help model and encourage healthy behaviors.
- All school food and kitchen procedures will comply with State and Local food health department regulations.
- Signage will be displayed in each cafeteria serving line promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- Eligible sites are strongly encouraged to apply and participate in USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant. The school shall receive federal funding to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables a minimum of twice every week.
- Community "share bucket" will be accessible at breakfast and lunch to minimize food waste.



- Alternative entrée options shall be available to students at every meal (i.e. cereal at breakfast, chef salads and PBJs for lunch).

School Food Culture

- Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products are featured in school menus, are displayed in an attractive manner, and prepared appropriately.
- Food items available to children through school meals, a la carte, vending machines, school stores, events, celebrations, fundraisers, concessions, etc. support healthy food choices and the goal of improving student health and well-being.
- DaVinci Academy shall provide an environment that ensures students have the best opportunity to practice healthy eating behaviors with minimal distractions. There shall be no advertising on DaVinci Academy property that conflicts with health information provided through nutrition education and wellness efforts.
- All items sold to students during the school day meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Questions regarding food related fundraisers, school stores, etc. should be directed to the Food Service Department.

Eating Time

- DaVinci Academy recognizes mealtime as an integral time that allows students to enjoy eating, explore and try healthy options, as well as socialize. Students shall be provided at a minimum 10 minutes for traditional breakfast and breakfast after the bell rings and 20 minutes for lunch, which excludes time to arrive at the cafeteria and waiting in line.
- Students are served meals at an appropriate and reasonable time of day.
- Lunch shall follow recess whenever possible, which can help to increase intake of healthy items, decrease food waste, and improve behavior.
 - Considerations shall be made for students with medical needs, such as diabetes, hypoglycemia and food allergies.

Celebrations and Rewards

- DaVinci Academy shall not use food as a reward or incentive for children, as they may undermine healthy nutrition practices being taught, teach children to eat when they are not hungry, and set the stage for unhealthy habits which can contribute to obesity.
- Teachers and parent groups shall be provided with a list of fun, non-food rewards and celebration ideas.
- Food and beverages shall not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.



Promotion & Marketing

Promotion of food and beverages on campus shall be limited to only items that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Students shall receive consistent nutrition messaging across settings, including classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition messages shall be emphasized to students by using these strategies:

- Display posters in classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria, etc. to promote healthy eating.
- Conduct [taste tests](#) with students to promote healthy options, inform menu development, and garner enthusiasm around trying new foods.
- Promote nutrition programs and provide nutrition tips and snacks at interactive family events such as parent-teacher conferences.
- Host a [health and wellness fair](#) to bring in community partners and provide nutrition resources.
- Nutrition messages shall be infused into the communication channels between the DaVinci Academy and households/community (newsletters, social media, website, etc.).
- Create a wellness-focused school newsletter to promote healthy eating and physical activity to families.
- Share short nutrition and physical activity [tips during the morning announcements](#).
- Allow students to visit the water fountain throughout the school day and to carry water bottles in class. Letters shall be sent home to parents to encourage participation.
- Promote a healthy topic each month on a bulletin board in the main office.
- [Cafeterias](#) shall be decorated with murals, artwork, posters, and table tents to promote good nutrition during breakfast and lunch.

Special Diets

DaVinci Academy is committed to providing all students with the nutritious and safe meals they need to be healthy. To ensure that all children shall have an equal opportunity to participate in school meal programs, DaVinci Academy shall:

- Design menus to accommodate cultural food preferences and common dietary requests, including allergies.
- Implement a written procedure to process requests for meal modifications.
- Create a team of individuals such as a 504 coordinator, school nurse, menu planner, foodservice director, teachers, aides, etc. that is tasked to:
 - ensure each child with special dietary needs receives appropriate accommodations,
 - discuss and implement best practices,
 - safeguard student confidentiality,
 - protect children in situations where food is served outside the cafeteria, such as classroom parties, and
 - involve parents and guardians in the process to prevent miscommunication.See [USDA Guidance](#) for more information.



Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a [Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program \(CSPAP\)](#) framework. CSPAP framework reflects strong coordination with the following components:

- Quality physical education as the foundation.
- Physical activity before, during, and after school.
- Staff involvement and family and community engagement.

Schools shall ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in “Physical Education” subsection). All schools in DaVinci Academy shall be encouraged to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to; recess, classroom physical activity breaks, or physical education) shall not be withheld as punishment for any reason. Teachers and other school personnel shall not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, push-ups) as punishment. DaVinci Academy shall provide teachers and other school staff with a list of ideas for alternative ways to discipline students.

To the extent practicable, DaVinci Academy shall ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe, and that equipment is available to students to be active. DaVinci Academy shall conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Physical Education

DaVinci Academy shall provide students with physical education using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with the [Utah Core Standards for Physical Education](#) in grades K-6, middle school, and high school consistent with [R277-700](#). The physical education curriculum shall promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and shall help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate health education concepts.

The curriculum shall support the essential components of physical education, such as:

- All students shall be provided an equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes taught by qualified teachers.
- All DaVinci Academy elementary students shall participate in physical education annually ([R277-700](#)) and should receive physical education for a minimum of 150 minutes per week throughout the school year.
- All DaVinci Academy secondary students shall take a minimum of one physical education course in middle school and 1.5 credits of physical education in high school ([R277-700](#)). Physical education class should be a minimum of 225 minutes per week.



- The DaVinci Academy physical education program shall promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments and shall use criterion-based reporting for each student.
- All physical education classes shall be taught by licensed teachers who are certified or endorsed to teach physical education.
- [IDEA](#) requires that each child with a disability participates with nondisabled children in these programs and activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of that child. Physical education services, specially designed, if necessary, must be made available to every child with a disability receiving a free appropriate public education, unless the public agency enrolls children without disabilities and does not provide physical education to children without disabilities in the same grades. Each public agency must take steps to provide nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, including athletics, in the manner necessary to afford children with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in those services and activities. Guidance on the legal aspects of the provision of extracurricular athletic opportunities to students is provided under the IDEA link.

Recess (Elementary)

DaVinci Academy recognizes that recess is a necessary structural component of the elementary school day for all students.

Schools:

- Shall provide at least 20 minutes of active daily recess to all elementary school students.
- Shall not require students to engage in physical activity as punishment (such as running extra laps).
- Shall provide recess before lunch when schedules allow.
 - Considerations shall be made for students with medical needs, such as diabetes and hypoglycemia.
- Shall offer outdoor recess when weather is feasible for outdoor play. Considerations shall be made for heat, cold, or other extreme weather conditions.
 - If the school must conduct indoor recess, teachers and staff shall follow indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students.
- Shall make accommodations for students to participate indoors for poor air quality on mandatory action days.
- Shall create schedules for recess to complement, not substitute, physical education class.
- Shall provide recess monitors or teachers to encourage students to be active and serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

See [Best Practices for Recess Guidance](#).



Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)

DaVinci Academy recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks where they can be physically active or stretch. Students shall be offered periodic opportunities to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days of a typical school week. Teachers may provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks shall complement, not substitute, physical education, recess, and class transition periods.

DaVinci Academy shall provide resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. [Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds Flipbook](#) is a resource providing short activities that can be done in a classroom setting. Additional resources and ideas are available through USDA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Active Academics

Teachers shall incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into core subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, mathematics, language arts, social studies) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day. DaVinci Academy shall support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources. Teachers shall serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Before and After School Activities

DaVinci Academy shall offer opportunities for students to participate in physical activity before and/or after the school day through a variety of methods. The DaVinci Academy shall encourage students to be physically active before and after school. For non-active activities and clubs, DaVinci Academy shall encourage movement breaks and healthy snacks.

Health Promotion

Air quality

All individuals are entitled to breathe healthy air and to be free of the adverse health effects of indoor and outdoor air pollution. The health, comfort, and learning environment of students and staff are important aspects of the school. Air quality, both indoor and outdoor, is a critical component of providing a healthy and comfortable learning environment. DaVinci Academy shall:

- Minimize indoor air pollutants, which shall reduce the likelihood of health problems including asthma, respiratory infections, allergic reactions, and other health problems.
- Control temperature, humidity, and ventilation associated problems, which shall foster students' comfort and learning.



- Monitor the outdoor air pollution and provide a safe alternative to outdoor recess on days with elevated levels of air pollution.
- Limit idling at drop off and pick up zones and post signage to remind parents and guests of idle free zones.

Sun Safety

DaVinci Academy recognizes Utah’s high rate of skin cancer. In order to protect students and staff DaVinci Academy shall use comprehensive sun-safe practices to best protect students and staff from harmful sun exposure during school activities.

Whenever possible schools shall:

- Schedule recess for times when ultraviolet ray (UV) exposure can be minimized;
- Promote sun safety habits like wearing hats, sunglasses, or applying sunscreen;
- Specify that uniforms or clothing worn for physical education, band, and sports limit exposure to the sun; and
- Recognize that sun exposure can be an occupational hazard for employees who spend time outdoors and take steps to limit their exposure.

DaVinci Academy commits to teaching the sun safety standards as part of the Health Education Core Standards and utilizes vetted resources provided by the USBE. Students in Utah may apply the sunscreen on the student with written consent from the parent or legal guardian. They shall be allowed to self-apply sunscreen without a parent or physician’s authorization. If the student is unable to self-apply sunscreen, a volunteer or school employee may help a student.

Health Screenings

DaVinci Academy may participate in a variety of health screenings to identify students who may be at risk for developing health-related conditions. Some of the optional screenings may include oral health, height and weight, and hearing. Vision screening in schools is mandatory in Utah. Schools shall notify parents or guardians of all student health screenings and provide them with information on how to exclude their student if the screening violates their personal belief.

Period Products

DaVinci Academy will provide period products at no cost in all female and unisex restrooms.

Substance Misuse Prevention and Intervention

The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs has been found to negatively affect the developing brain of youth. Not only are youth who use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs at a higher risk for experiencing addiction later in life, but teen substance use has been linked with school performance problems such as higher absenteeism and poor or failing grades. Using alcohol, tobacco and other illicit drugs in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood and impulse control.



Schools are in a powerful position of influence among the students they serve and can play a major role in prevention. Research is clear that the establishment and enforcement of clear, consistent standards of conduct, prevention education and promotion, and the implementation of evidence-based programs can prevent youth substance use.

Establish and Enforce Clear Standards of Conduct

DaVinci Academy maintains a comprehensive conduct policy prohibiting the use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, drugs, and drug paraphernalia on school property or at school-sponsored activities. These standards are communicated annually to students, parents, and staff, and posted publicly on campus.

The school implements a board-approved Positive Behaviors Plan and regularly reviews it for improvement. Substance-use prevention is taught at every grade level through the Health Education Core Standards using vetted USBE resources, including the required Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST) program for grades 4–5, 7–8, and 9–10.

DaVinci Academy selects prevention programs that strengthen protective factors, reduce risk factors, and address all forms of substance misuse. Elementary programs focus on academic and social-emotional skills, while secondary programs build communication, peer-relationship, study, resistance, and self-management skills. Effective programs are long-term, reinforce prevention messages, use interactive strategies, and include teacher training in positive classroom management.

The school collaborates with Local Substance Abuse Authorities and community prevention partners to support comprehensive, research-based prevention efforts.

Substance Use Intervention

When a substance use violation is reported, the school administrator or designee will promptly notify the student’s parent or guardian and determine whether the incident must be reported to law enforcement, consistent with Utah law. DaVinci Academy follows state regulations for the confiscation and proper disposal of electronic cigarette and nicotine products.

Recognizing that substance-use violations may reflect underlying addiction concerns, DaVinci Academy will provide students and families with appropriate education, counseling, and cessation resources. Progressive discipline—including behavioral supports and educational interventions—is recommended for possession or use violations, in addition to any required disciplinary action. The school may consult the USBE Prevention Team for evidence-based programs to support intervention plans.



In cases involving the distribution of controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia, state law requires suspension or expulsion. Parents or guardians will be notified immediately of any disciplinary decision.

Injury Prevention

- DaVinci Academy staff shall be required to receive training and instruction on child sexual abuse prevention and awareness, responding to a disclosure of child sexual abuse, and mandatory reporting requirements according to the Utah Child Sexual Abuse Prevention law ([Utah Code 53G-9-207](#)).
- DaVinci Academy shall adopt comprehensive school policies and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. Since youth are at higher risk for suicide after an attempt and/or inpatient care, this should include procedures for the re-entry process after this has occurred. By having clear policies and procedures in place, schools can act to reduce the risk of suicide and to prevent suicide contagion.
- DaVinci Academy shall adopt comprehensive school policies, procedures, and activities related to violence prevention, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating violence. Language that is inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual, etc. (LGBTQIA+) students shall be included in these policies.
- DaVinci Academy shall adopt policies and practices that promote connectedness as a protective factor against multiple forms of injury and violence.
- DaVinci Academy staff shall be required to receive evidence-based training in suicide prevention (e.g., QPR, Mental Health First Aid, etc.) every year. These same opportunities shall be made available to parents/guardians.
- DaVinci Academy shall provide information to parents on an annual basis related to traumatic brain injury or concussions, substance abuse, bullying, mental health, depression, suicide awareness, suicide prevention, internet safety, and the School Safety and Crisis Line according to the Utah Parent Education law.
- DaVinci Academy coaches, trainers, officials, and student athletes shall be trained yearly on recognizing and responding to concussions and the Protections of Athletes with Head Injuries Act. A child who gets a head injury must be removed from play and may only return after written clearance from a qualified health care provider.
- DaVinci Academy shall adopt school policies and procedures for head injuries, including head bumps:
 - for return to learn/play after a concussion or traumatic brain injury (TBI). See [USBE Model Head Injury Policy](#);
 - parent notification following any reported or witnessed head injury or bump; and
 - monitor students for 30 minutes using the [USBE model forms](#) following a head injury.



- DaVinci Academy shall participate in the Student Injury Reporting System (SIRS). The SIRS allows schools to track injuries that happen on school grounds during school hours or school-sponsored activities.

Staff Wellness

The DaVinci Academy wellness committee shall develop, promote, and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness. The plan shall be based on input solicited from staff and should outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among staff.

The DaVinci Academy shall encourage staff to serve as positive role models for healthy eating and physical fitness. DaVinci Academy shall promote work-site wellness programs and may provide opportunities for regular physical activity among employees.

The DaVinci Academy shall have a location and allow schedules for anyone needing to express milk. The Federal Break Time for Nursing Mothers law requires employers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to provide basic accommodations for breastfeeding mothers at work. These accommodations include the following components:

- Privacy for milk expression. This can be a private office (if it can be locked) or an onsite, designated lactation room(s) with an electrical outlet where breastfeeding employees can use a pump to express milk during the work period. This should be a place other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, which may be used by an employee to express breast milk.
- Flexible breaks and work options. Women need to express milk about every three hours, or two to three times during a typical workday. Each milk expression time takes around 15 minutes, plus time to go to and from the lactation room. Women should be able to express breast milk for her nursing child for one year after the child's birth each time such employee has need to express the milk and a place other than a bathroom.
- Support. A positive, accepting attitude from administrators and coworkers helps breastfeeding employees feel confident in their ability to continue working while breastfeeding.

DaVinci Academy shall develop a Comprehensive School Physical Activity framework which allows staff to participate in or lead physical activity opportunities throughout the school day. An employee wellness program shall be implemented in each building to meet the unique wellness needs of school staff.

Chronic, Infectious & Acute Disease Management

DaVinci Academy shall have a minimum of one professional registered school nurse who can assist with the management of chronic, infectious, and acute diseases the students may have. The school nurse is the best person to manage these conditions in the school setting.



DaVinci Academy shall have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) per school. This device should be examined monthly to make sure all components are working properly.

A minimum of two school employees shall be certified in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At least one person certified in first aid and CPR shall be on-site when school is in session.

Before the school nurse can delegate a medical task to a school employee, the nurse shall complete an individualized healthcare plan (IHP) or emergency action plan (EAP). The delegated task shall be identified in the IHP.

Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, all DaVinci Employees shall provide seizure awareness training to all teachers and administrators of students with epilepsy. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year DaVinci Academy shall provide seizure awareness training for all school staff who interact with or supervise students.

Medication Management

Students shall be allowed access to medication during school hours by following Utah Code 53G-9-502 which requires prior parent/guardian and healthcare provider authorization. Parents must submit a completed medication authorization form annually to DaVinci Academy for any routine and scheduled medications that are required during school. The school nurse shall train staff on how and when to administer medication to students.

Students are allowed to possess and self-administer certain medications after proper signed authorization by both the student's parent and healthcare provider are submitted each year. This applies to epinephrine auto-injectors, asthma medication, and diabetes medication. All other medication shall be stored in a locked location with the exception of epinephrine auto-injectors, and asthma rescue medication. These shall be kept in a secure, but unlocked location.

- Allergy and anaphylaxis: Students are allowed to possess and self-administer an epinephrine auto-injector (when appropriate) after proper authorization has been submitted to DaVinci Academy. If the student does not self-carry the epinephrine auto-injector, the device shall be kept in a secure but unlocked location. All other allergy medication shall be kept in a locked location. Schools shall have at least one stock epinephrine auto-injector available as required by [Utah Code 26-41](#). Trained school employees shall immediately administer the epinephrine auto-injector to a person exhibiting potentially life-threatening symptoms of anaphylaxis.



- Asthma: Students shall be allowed to possess and self-administer their asthma medications (when appropriate) after proper authorization has been submitted to the school by [Utah Code 26-41](#). If the student does not self- carry the asthma medication, the device shall be kept in a secure but unlocked location.
- Each school may carry stock albuterol for use with a student who:
 - Has a known diagnosis of asthma by a healthcare provider;
 - Has a current asthma action plan on file with the school; and
 - Is showing symptoms of an asthma emergency.
- The decision of a school to carry stock albuterol may not be interpreted to relieve a student’s parent or guardian of providing a student’s medication or create an expectation that a school shall have stock albuterol available.
- Diabetes: Students shall be allowed to carry and self-administer their diabetes medication (when appropriate) after proper authorization has been submitted to the school.
- Seizures: School nurses shall train school employee volunteers to administer emergency seizure rescue medication (when appropriate) after proper authorization has been submitted to the school per [Utah Code 53G-9-505](#). Students shall not carry this medication. These medications shall be kept locked, but accessible for use in an emergency.

If the parent does not submit the required paperwork to allow emergency rescue medication at the school employees shall be instructed to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Mental Health

Mental health means a person's emotional, psychological, and social well-being which can affect how a person thinks, feels, and acts including how a person handles stress, relates to others, and makes healthy choices ([R277-625](#)).

Mental health is more than the absence of illness, it is an integral component of health and well-being. DaVinci Academy understands the role mental health plays in the school context because it is central to our students’ social, emotional, and academic success. When students’ mental health is supported they are better able to learn, make decisions, build relationships, cope with life’s challenges, and thrive.

Mental health exists on a continuum and is determined by a complex interplay of individual, social and structural stresses and vulnerabilities. Promoting mental wellness and reducing mental illness for all students is a priority that can be achieved by implementing school-based mental health policies and practices. These efforts are categorized by: prevention, identification, intervention, and recovery.



Prevention

Prevention efforts in DaVinci Academy involve a variety of proactive strategies with the goal of increasing student well-being and reducing future mental health challenges in our school community. The goal of our prevention efforts are to decrease risk factors and increase key protective factors in students, such as resilience, feelings of safety and connectedness to school, appropriate social connections with both adults and peers, social emotional competence, and a knowledge of development. These protective factors mitigate the effects of risks to students, build students' strengths, and promote healthy development of students.

In an effort to understand students, parents, school personnel and other stakeholders feelings of safety and connectedness, DaVinci Academy administers a School Climate Survey every other year in accordance with [Board Rule R277-623](#). The results of the school climate survey help inform DaVinci Academy about how to improve the school environment.

DaVinci Academy's universal, Tier 1 prevention efforts include:

- Absenteeism, truancy, and dropout prevention
- Bullying prevention
- Child sex abuse and human trafficking prevention
- Gang prevention
- Substance use prevention
- Suicide prevention

Education

DaVinci Academy commits to teaching the mental and emotional health standards as part of the Health Education Core Standards in grades K-6, middle school and high school and utilizes vetted resources provided by the USBE.

Identification

Mental Health Screening

Routine mental health screenings are a key part of understanding youth mental health. Mental health screenings in schools, with active, written consent from parents, allow staff to identify potential mental health conditions early and connect students with help.

DaVinci Academy may provide mental health screenings for students within the school setting for the purpose of identifying if a student is experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing, issues related to the student's mental health. Mental health screenings are NOT a diagnostic tool or process; or a system or process used by a student's teacher to observe behavior for the purpose of targeted learning interventions.



According to Board Rule [R277-625](#), mental health screenings may only screen for depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. At this time, no other mental health conditions may be screened. While behavioral screenings are not equivalent to mental health screenings, a screener that includes questions regarding depression, anxiety, or suicidal ideation does fall under the mental health screening program and must adhere to the same policies. A list of up-to-date approved mental health screening tools can be found [here](#).

DaVinci Academy follows the guidelines outlined within [53F-2-522](#) and [R277-625](#) regarding Mental Health Screening.

Intervention

DaVinci Academy utilizes a tiered system of support to structure and deliver mental health interventions to students. Universal, school-wide programs which include mental health literacy and efforts to reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues are provided within DaVinci Academy. DaVinci Academy provides short-term individual and small- or large-group school counseling services to students that promote self-awareness and social-emotional learning and growth. These services teach effective coping skills and self-regulation tools, empowering students to navigate challenges and strengthen their overall well-being.

DaVinci Academy only provides these services to students upon written parental consent in accordance with [53E-9-203](#). Parental consent is not required when DaVinci Academy staff believes a student is at-risk of attempting suicide, physical self-harm, or harming others. DaVinci Academy staff may intervene to ask the student questions about their student's suicidal thoughts, physically self-harming behavior, or thoughts of harming others for the purposes of referring the student to appropriate prevention services and immediately informing the student's parents as referenced in [DAVINCI ACADEMY procedure about parental notification].

Return to learn

Students may need to leave school temporarily to access more intensive mental health support. DaVinci Academy supports students returning to school by partnering with community providers, parents, and the student to develop a transition plan upon their return to school.



Law and Policy

Under the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations [7 CFR 210.31 Local Wellness Policy](#). Utah Code ([53G-7-1202](#) and [53G-4-402](#)): all elementary, middle and junior high schools are required to create and distribute a Safe Routes Plan. The Safe Route Plans shall encourage an increase of walking and biking to school.

[The Federal Pro Children Act of 1994](#) states: "No person shall permit smoking within any indoor facility utilized for services for kindergarten, elementary or secondary education or library services to children." This applies to all schools and programs that are funded by the federal government or through state and local governments.

[IDEA](#): Creating Equitable Opportunities for Children and Youth with Disabilities to Access Physical Education and Extracurricular Athletics.

[Utah Code 26-38-2](#): The Utah Indoor Clean Air Act prohibits smoking and vaping at ALL elementary and secondary schools, both public and private; this includes the premises on which those facilities are located.

[Utah Code 53G-4-413](#): Required provision of period products in schools (public schools).

[Utah Code 53G-5-414](#): Required provision of period products in charter schools.

[Utah Code 53G-9-213](#): Required seizure awareness training in Utah schools.

[Utah Code 53G-10-406](#): Requires a, "school-based underage drinking and substance abuse prevention program" for students in grades 4 or 5 AND 7 or 8 AND AGAIN in 9 or 10. Botvin's LifeSkills Training was chosen and approved to meet this requirement as it is a research-validated prevention program proven to reduce the risk of substance abuse and other risky behaviors by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote initiation.

[Utah Code 53G-10-407](#): Requires LEAs to create a positive behaviors plan based on the input of students, parents, and staff; and submit the positive behaviors plan to the LEA governing board for approval

[Utah Code 53G-10-408](#): Requires students to complete CPR training at least once during the period that begins with the beginning of grade 9 and ends at the end of grade 12 during Health Education.

[Utah Code 53G-9-204](#): School nursing services: DAVINCI ACADEMYs are encouraged to provide nursing services equivalent to one school nurse for every 2,000 students.

[Utah Code 53G-9-205.1](#): Start Smart Utah Breakfast Program. [Utah Code 53G-9-208](#): Sunscreen use and possession at school. [Utah Code 53G-9-502](#): Administration of Medication.

[Utah Code 26-53](#): Protection of athletes with head injuries.

[Utah Code 53G-9-702](#): Suicide prevention

[Utah Code 53G-9-703](#): Parent education-mental health-bullying-safety.

[Utah Code 53G-9-704](#): Youth suicide training for employees.

[Utah Code 53G-9-207](#): Child sex abuse prevention.

[Utah Code 26-55](#): Opiate Overdose Response Act.

[Utah Code 53G-9-404](#): Public Education vision screening.

[Utah Code 26-41-103](#): Stock epinephrine and stock albuterol.



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[R156-31b](#): Nurse Practice Act Rules.

[R277-620](#): Suicide Prevention Programs.

[R277-700](#): The Elementary and Secondary School General Core

[R392-200-9](#): School Health and Safety: requires all LEAs to have two staff members who are CPR and first aid certified.

Monitoring and Evaluations

Annual monitoring and evaluation of the Health and Wellness Policy is crucial to ensure its ongoing effectiveness and relevance.

Assessment Resources:

This DAVINCI ACADEMY Wellness Policy Evaluation Tool was created using the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Model Wellness Policy as a guide and is meant to assist DAVINCI ACADEMYs in identifying any gaps within their own policies and practices.

https://utahgov.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9WXW2GY9cpPexXo

A triennial assessment of the DAVINCI ACADEMY Wellness Policy is required by USDA FNS for those participating in the National School Lunch Program. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/local-school-wellness-policy>.

[WellSAT](#): A quantitative assessment tool to help you score and improve your local school wellness policy.

[School Health Index \(SHI\)](#): An online self-assessment and planning tool that schools can use to improve their health and safety policies and programs.

[Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child \(WSCC\)](#): The CDC's framework for addressing health in schools. The WSCC model is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices.

[Worksite Wellness Scorecard](#): The CDC Worksite Health ScoreCard is a tool designed to help employers assess whether they have implemented evidence-based health promotion interventions or strategies in their worksites to improve the health and well-being of their employees.