

Turlock Unified School District
Child Nutrition
Wellness Policy
Triennial Assessment



Wellness Committee:

Debbie Martinez

Board of Trustees, Area 5

David Lattig

Superintendent

Jennifer Lew-Vang

Director of Child Nutrition

Richelle Salas

Child Nutrition Manager

DeAnna Millentree

Child Nutrition Operations Supervisor

Jason Brower

Child Nutrition Operations Supervisor

Gil Ogden

Director of Student Services

Marie Russell

Director of Communications, Family Engagement, and Outreach

Julia Perez

Parent Liaison, Turlock Jr. High School

Ursula Gonzales

Parent Liaison, Pitman High School

Introduction:

Introduction to Triennial Assessments

According to the USDA Final Rule, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) a minimum of once every three years, beginning no later than June 30, 2021. The Triennial Assessment requires LEAs to assess compliance with their LSWP and to make this assessment available to the public. The Triennial Assessment is comprised of four components:

1. Comparison to a model LSWP
2. Extent of compliance for all schools with the District LSWP
3. Progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy
4. Triennial Assessment report to the public

Component #1: Comparison to Model LSWP

Introduction

Our School District conducted a Triennial Assessment to compare our written LSWP to a model policy. The purpose of comparing a LEA's school wellness policy to a model policy is to identify areas of strength, opportunities for improvement, and to identify where LEAs could adopt language to make their wellness policy stronger. This was conducted during the 2024-2025 school year.

Complete your Comparison

There are varieties of model wellness policies available for districts to use when completing their comparison. The CA LSWP Collaborative has outlined a few of the most common tools below, but our district compared our LSWP to the following tool:

- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AHG) Model Policy

Alliance for a Healthier Generation Model Wellness Policy

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AHG) Model Wellness Policy includes language that meets the minimum federal standards for LSWP implementation under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The AHG's Healthy Schools Program Framework sets higher standards for schools and represents best practices in school nutrition and physical activity, as well as health education (HE) and physical education (PE).

Document your Comparison

After completing the comparison of our LSWP to the model LSWP, our district completed the Model School Wellness Policy Comparison Chart of results on the next page:

LSWP Comparison Results

Component	Description
Tool Used for Model LSWP Comparison	The Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AGH) Model
Areas of Strength:	1. TUSD goals for compliance with USDA final rule along with proper language and standards.
	2. Competitive foods and beverages information is aligned with CA specifics and Smart Snacks requirements are listed.
	3. Social and Emotional climate promotions.
Opportunities for Improvement	1. Compliance with National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program nutrition standards outlined with specifics.
	2. Physical and Classroom activities can be broken down to grades and accomplishments instead of a broad spectrum.
	3. Community involvement can always be improved and promoted more often.
As a result of the comparison was new language adopted in the LSWP<	YES
If yes, briefly describe what was adopted (include page numbers for new language if possible)	The outdated wellness handbook has been updated with the required information, and an updated discrimination statement was added.
Describe next steps for the strengthening your LSWP	1. Send for board approval. 2. Notify the public of changes made to LSWP. 3. Bring new goals and progress to the district wellness committee for review in the February meeting.

Component #2: Extent of Compliance for All Schools with the LSWP

Introduction

The second component of the Triennial Assessment is identifying the extent to which schools within your district are compliant with the LSWP as it is written. The purpose of this is to determine whether schools within the district are following the LSWP. This helps districts identify where to provide additional support to reach the requirements included in the LSWP.

Before you Begin

Our District decided to conduct meetings with each Assistant Principal to review the updated LSWP. We meet with each Assistant Principal and conducted an assessment of the policy areas to make sure each school was compliant within our district.

Complete your Assessment

Our TUSD district completed the assessment and used the following tool to show compliance.

Assessment Tool

The assessment tool our District used to see if we were meeting the requirements within our policy is the following assessment guide on the next page. We held interviews with key stakeholders to assess compliance. Our districts also had the wellness committee meet and gather this information from key school stakeholders.

Extent of Compliance for All Schools

Policy Area (write the requirements included in your LSWP in the column below)	Not Met (Number of Schools)	Partial Compliance (Number of Schools)	Full Compliance (Number of Schools)
Nutrition Education Requirements(s) Nutrition education is a vital part of a comprehensive health education program and empowers children with knowledge and skills to make healthy food and beverage choices. TUSD will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating among students. Schools will provide nutrition education integrated into other subjects, as part of health education and/or offer stand-alone classes at each grade level.	0/18	0/18	18/18
Nutrition Promotion Requirements(s) Nutrition promotion using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages helps to create healthy food environments and positively influences lifelong healthy eating behaviors. It also helps to encourage and increase participation in school meal programs. TUSD will ensure that students and staff receive consistent nutrition messages throughout the school campus including in classrooms, gymnasiums and cafeterias. The district and all schools will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students across the school campus during the school day and will encourage participation in school meal programs.	0/18	0/18	18/18
Physical Activity Requirements(s) Children and adolescents, including children with disabilities, should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day in order to ensure optimum health. TUSD requires that a combination of physical activity opportunities be offered to students: • Physical education • Classroom physical activity • Active academics • Daily recess • Before- and after-school activities, including sports • Support for and promotion of active transportation	0/18	0/18	18/18
Other Student Wellness Requirements(s) TUSD is committed to ensuring that the physical health needs of all students are met. The district will support students' physical health by Conducting assessments and planning for meeting the individual needs of students.	0/18	0/18	18/18
Federal/State Meal Standards Turlock Unified School District (TUSD) will participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and will provide meals that meet the nutrition standards for school meals by including:	0/18	0/18	18/18

• Fruits and vegetables, including a variety of fruits and vegetables that meet the required vegetable subgroups (dark green, red and orange, dry beans, and peas and legumes) • Grains (whole grain-rich) • Meats and meat alternates • Fat-free and low-fat milk • Access to free drinking water			
Foods Offered but not Sold Standards Celebrations and positive reinforcement are an important part of our district's culture of supporting students. Using food as a reward or withholding food as a punishment undermines healthy eating habits and interferes with children's ability to self-regulate their eating. TUSD will ensure that celebrations and rewards are consistent with our nutrition policies. All foods and beverages served and offered on the school campus outside of the school meal programs during the school day will meet Smart Snack Standards. This includes foods and beverages offered during celebrations and parties, for classroom snacks and as rewards and incentives. TUSD recommends utilizing rewards that promote physical activity and/or promote educational messages. Foods and beverages will not be withheld as a punishment for any reason.	0/18	2/18	16/18
Food and Beverage Marketing TUSD will promote healthy food and beverage choices using the following marketing and merchandising techniques: • Displaying whole fruit options in attractive bowls or baskets • Displaying daily fruit options in the line of sight and reach of students • Giving creative or descriptive names to all available vegetable options • Training all staff members, especially those serving, to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal • Placing white milk in front of other beverages in all coolers • Highlighting alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar or yogurt parfaits) on posters or signs within all service and dining areas • Conducting student surveys and taste testing opportunities and using them to inform menu development, dining space décor and promotional ideas	0/18	0/18	18/18

District LSWP Components	For the components below, indicate whether the district is in compliance	
	YES	NO
Public Involvement TUSD is committed to encouraging community involvement in school-level decision-making and activities.	X	
Public Notification TUSD will actively inform caregivers and the public each year of basic information about the LSWP.	X	
Triennial Assessment In order to be compliant with the USDA final rule, at least once every three years, TUSD will assess the LSWP.	X	

District-Level LSWP Components	For the components below, indicate whether the district is in compliance	
	YES	NO
Assessing the extent of compliance of all schools with the LSWP	X	
Assessing the progress made in attaining the goals of the LSWP	X	

Component #3: Progress Made in Reaching LSWP Goals

Introduction

The third component of the Triennial Assessment is to assess and document progress made in reaching the goals outlined in your LSWP. The purpose of assessing and documenting your progress is to demonstrate that your LSWP is being implemented.

Our District will be holding meetings throughout the school year to document the progress that is being made to reach out goals that are within our LSWP.

Monitor your Progress

Multiple tools exist to assess progress in achieving your LSWP goals. Our District used the following tool:

- [AHG Healthy Schools Program Assessment Guide](#)

Document Progress Made in Reaching your LSWP Goals

After completing our assessment, we completed the Progress Made in Reaching LSWP Goals Results Table on the next page to document our progress and will continue to monitor or goals throughout the school year within out Wellness Committee meetings.

Progress in reaching the LSWP goals

Goal	Was the goal met? Yes/Partially/No	What Was Achieved? Describe how you achieved this goal	Documentation Share Documents
Nutrition Education Goal(s) Nutrition education is a vital part of a comprehensive health education program and empowers children with knowledge and skills to make healthy food and beverage choices. TUSD will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating among students. Schools will provide nutrition education integrated into other subjects, as part of health education and/or offer stand-alone classes at each grade level.	Yes	The district adopted evidence based curriculum for nutrition education that are aligned for grades K-6. This is a collaboration with Child Nutrition and key school administrators to implement the education needed.	Attachment: TUSD Farm Coordinator and Child Nutrition collaborate to host tours at TUSD Farm, Farm 2 School Expo, and Farm Open House annually.
Nutrition Promotion Goal(s) Nutrition promotion using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages helps to create healthy food environments and positively influences lifelong healthy eating behaviors. It also helps to encourage and increase participation in school meal programs. TUSD will ensure that students and staff receive consistent nutrition messages throughout the school campus including in classrooms, gymnasiums and cafeterias. The district and all schools will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students across the school campus during the school day and will encourage participation in school meal programs.	Partially	The District distributed healthy food and beverage promotions on an on-going basis through the school year. Promotions are done during all events held by the district. The district has 2 OnTrack sites that could encourage healthier promoting within the school grounds.	Attachment: Health Snack promotions
Physical Activity Goal(s) Children and adolescents, including children with disabilities, should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day in order to ensure optimum health. TUSD requires that a combination of physical activity opportunities be offered to students:	Yes	All schools have at least 60 combined minutes of physical activity per school day. There are different avenues of physical activities that are offered to students. There is also after school sports activities offered	

• Physical education • Classroom physical activity • Active academics • Daily recess • Before- and after-school activities, including sports • Support for and promotion of active transportation		to all students as well though our ELOP and after school programs.	
Other Student Wellness Goal(s) TUSD is committed to ensuring that the physical health needs of all students are met. The district will support students' physical health by Conducting assessments and planning for meeting the individual needs of students.	Yes	All schools have access to highly qualified medical professionals. Each school site has a medical professional on campus every day of the week.	
Additional Goal(s)			

Component #4: Triennial Assessment Report to the Public

Introduction

Once our District has completed the Triennial Assessment, the final step is to share our results with the public. The purpose of this step is to ensure the school community is aware of the LSWP work. It is also a great opportunity to recruit new LSWP Committee Members.

Methods for Sharing your Results with the Public

We plan to share our results with the public using the following methods: presentations, newsletters, and social media.

TEA Report to the Public Template

Target Audience	Method	Date
Community Partners & School Board	Discussion during the Wellness Committee Meeting	2/18/2026
Parents/Teachers/Administrators/Community Members	Social Media Posts	2/1/2026

LSWP Report Template

Attached you will find a one-page report of our LSWP work to share.



2024-2025 Wellness Policy Report Turlock Unified School District (TUSD)



Our Wellness Goals

We met these Goals:

- Gardens for all elementary schools.
- Look into more resources for the school gardens.
- More taste testing's and Promoting Healthy Meals
- Get all schools on the same page for outside food policy.

We are still working on these:

- School Gardens at secondary schools.
- Maintaining & sustaining school gardens.
- More physical activity goals that are specific to grade level.
- Applying for Grants to help fund school activities, i.e. School gardens

District Wellness Committee

- ✓ Meets 3 times a school year
- ✓ Led by Jennifer Lew-Vang, MBA, RDN
Director of Child Nutrition
- ✓ Designated school officials to ensure that schools use the wellness policy

Current members include Parents, Students, Teachers, Administration, Child Nutrition, Community Members, and the public.

Our District Wellness Policies:

- All school meals meet CDE and USDA guidelines
- All foods and beverages sold to students on campus, during the school day, meet the Smart Snack Standards.
- School celebrations and rewards are encouraged to use non-food items.
- All marketing is to support healthy and nutritious meal options.

Planning, Tracking, Sharing:

- Working in collaboration with other departments to get the school gardens maintained and sustained.
- Revision of the LSWP sent for Board approval on 12/16/2025.
- Triennial Assessment is continuously in progress and results will be posted to public as updated and Board approved.

Appendix C: Non-Discrimination Statement

For all other FNS nutrition assistance programs, state or local agencies, and their sub-recipients, must post the following Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.