



Policy: Local Wellness Policy

File Code: C9

Warned: July 10, 2024

Adopted: September 16, 2024

Purpose: It is the intent of the Addison Central School District (ACSD) to comply with the local policy requirements of all Vermont State and Federal regulations pertaining to school health and wellness.

The revisions, goals, procedures, and programs related to this policy have been and will be developed in consultation with parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of ACSD to establish goals for the eight domains of the Whole School, Whole Community, and Whole Child model (WSCC). ACSD aims to support our students' physical and emotional health by increasing their resilience and capacity to be fully engaged in their learning in schools that support them to feel safe physically, socially, emotionally, and academically. The underlying purpose of WSCC is to establish greater alignment, integration, and collaboration between health and education across the school setting and to improve each child's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. These eight domains include health education, physical education & physical activity, nutrition environment & services, health services, counseling, psychological & social services, social & emotional climate, physical environment, and employee wellness. With the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity, the district will also establish nutrition guidelines for all foods available at school during the school day.

When appropriate, ACSD will pursue collaboration with community health and wellness providers recognizing that this community connection promotes a wellness continuum for ACSD students and families.

I. Goals for Health Education

A. The school district shall provide Comprehensive Health Education as state law requires (currently 16 V.S.A. § 131, 16 V.S.A. § 909, and 16 V.S.A. § 906) and as described in State Board Rule 2000 Education Quality Standards.

B. Health education and promotion programs shall be conducted by appropriately licensed staff members.

C. To the extent practicable, health education and promotion may be integrated into core curricula areas such as science, family and consumer science, and physical education courses, in addition to conventional health education courses.

II. Goals for Health Services

A. The district will, when appropriate and possible, facilitate access to health care services or referral to health care services within the school setting or in the community. [The district will follow the Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual in establishing procedures for School Health Services.](#)

B. The district will, when appropriate, promote the prevention and control of communicable diseases and other health problems.

C. The district shall support sanitary conditions for a safe school facility and school environment following health department guidelines.

D. The district, as appropriate, will provide first responder care following the district emergency protocols for illness or injury of students, staff and/or visitors to the school.

E. The district shall aspire to engage in educational and counseling opportunities for promoting and maintaining individual, family, and community health.

F. The district aims to promote lifelong sexual health through incorporation into the district health education plan and health services. This includes comprehensive sexual health education, the provision of, or referrals to, age-appropriate sexual health services, and an effective STD/HIV and pregnancy prevention program, which includes access to condoms.

III. Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services

A. The district, within its multi-tiered system of services, aims to provide a variety of prevention and intervention services that support the mental, behavioral, and social-emotional health of students and promote success in the learning process. Referrals to outside agencies will be made as appropriate.

B. Intentional collaboration with our local designated agency allows the provision of social work services, crisis assessment, intensive therapy, and therapeutic

educational services for students with significant mental health challenges. These services include but are not limited to school counselor services, educational support system interventions, 504, and special education.

IV. Social & Emotional Climate

The district shall establish a school climate and culture that promotes health, psychosocial growth, and development by providing a safe and supportive learning environment.

V. Physical Environment

The district promotes a healthy and safe physical school environment that promotes learning by ensuring the safety of students and staff. The physical school environment encompasses the school building and its contents, the land on which it is located, and the area surrounding it.

VI. Employee Wellness

The district promotes a comprehensive school employee wellness approach that includes opportunities for staff members to pursue a healthy lifestyle which may have many benefits including improved morale and positive role modeling for students.

VII. Family Engagement The district promotes families and school staff work together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of students. Family engagement with schools is a shared responsibility of both school staff and families. School staff are committed to making families feel welcomed, engaging families in a variety of meaningful ways, and sustaining family engagement.

VIII. Community Engagement The district promotes community groups, organizations, and local businesses to create partnerships with schools, share resources, and volunteer to support student learning, development, and health-related activities.

IX. Nutrition Promotion and Education (The bold, italicized text follows the federal Children Nutrition Act policy).

A. ACSD shall provide nutrition promotion and education programs as required by state law and regulations of the State Board of Education. In particular, ACSD shall provide a nutrition component in its Comprehensive Health Education program and shall develop curricular programs intended to accomplish applicable goals enumerated in the Vermont Education Quality Standards.

- B. Nutrition education and promotion programs shall be conducted by appropriately licensed staff members.
- C. To the extent practicable, nutrition education and promotion shall be integrated into core curricula in areas such as science and family and consumer science courses.
- D. ACSD will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards on school campus.

X. Physical Education and Activity

- A. The district shall provide physical education classes for all students as required by Education Quality Standards.
- B. To the extent practicable, the district shall offer opportunities for students in grades K-5 to participate in at least 30 minutes of unstructured outdoor physical activity within each school day. To the extent practicable, the district shall offer opportunities for students in grades K-12 to participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity within or outside of the school day. Physical activity may include indoor and/or outdoor recess, and movement built into the curriculum, but does not replace physical education classes.
- C. Recess may not be denied or withheld.

XI. Nutrition Services

- A. ACSD shall ensure that guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to sections (a) and (b) of section 9A(a) and (b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.
- B. ACSD strives to provide adequate space for eating and serving school meals.
- C. ACSD shall support the provision of a clean and safe meal environment for students.
- D. ACSD shall, as practicable, establish meal periods that provide adequate time to eat and are scheduled at appropriate hours.
- E. Meals shall not be used in schools as a reward or punishment. ACSD shall provide adequate notification and guidance to parents, teachers, and staff members to facilitate this goal.
- F. ACSD shall provide nutrition training opportunities as appropriate for food service and other staff members, including contracted staff.

G. Schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs shall make free potable water available to children in the meal service areas.

XIII. Nutrition Guidelines

A. The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs will meet the requirements provided in 7 CFR 210 and 7 CFR 220 (National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Guidelines.)

B. All foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards[i].

C. School district fundraisers that occur during the school day will meet the USDA Smart Snack nutrition standards [ii].

D. ACSD shall establish nutrition guidelines for all other foods provided, but not sold to students during the school day, including food that is part of a classroom celebration or provided by parents or community organizations free of charge. When feasible, food provided but not sold should be limited to foods that improve the diet and health of students, help mitigate childhood obesity, and model healthy choices.

E. ACSD will follow the [Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual in establishing procedures for School Health Services](#) regarding students with life-threatening food allergies.

XIV. Other School-Based Activities

ACSD will implement other wellness-based school activities from time to time at the discretion of the superintendent or his or her designee. These activities will be in accordance with evidence-based strategies such as those provided in the Vermont School Wellness Policy Guidelines.

XV. Assessment

ACSD will conduct an assessment of the wellness policy every 3 years. This assessment will determine compliance with the wellness policy, how the wellness policy compares to model wellness policies, and progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.¹

XVI. Administrative Responsibilities

The superintendent or designee will:

1. Convene a local wellness team that includes parents, students, school food service program personnel, physical education, and health education teachers, school board members, school administration, members of the public, and school health professionals, which may include school nurses, school counselors, school-based clinicians, school social workers or behavioral health professionals.
2. Periodically monitor District programs and curriculum to ensure compliance with this policy and any administrative procedures established to carry out the requirements of this policy.
3. Provide a report at least annually to the board and the public on the District's compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness and the school nutrition environment. The report shall include information as to the content and implementation of this policy, and an assurance that District guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools following federal law.
4. Assist in ensuring compliance with the District's LWP including goals for all required components and that evidence-based strategies have been reviewed and considered in the development of those goals.
5. Be responsible for ensuring that the District complies with applicable state law and regulations governing the provision of and access to physical activity, physical education, and comprehensive health education as outlined in 16 V.S.A. § 136, 16 V.S.A. § 906, 16 V.S.A. § 941, and Education Quality Standard Rules (Series 2000).
6. Be responsible for ensuring that schools identify, near or at the beginning of serving lines, what foods constitute unit priced reimbursable meals.
7. Be responsible for ensuring that the District complies with any Administrative Review procedures of the State Educational Agency.
8. Develop a plan to respond to a parent's signed statement that the teaching of disease, its symptoms, development, and treatment, conflicts with the parents' religious convictions. In the case of a student exemption from such instruction, the exempted student shall not be penalized because of that exemption.

Legal Reference(s): 1 IX. Nutrition Promotion and Education through XV. Assessment is the VSBA Required C9 Policy on Nutrition and Wellness

- 16 V.S.A. §§§ 131,909 & 906(b)(3)
- 16 V.S.A. § 136, 16 V.S.A. § 906, 16 V.S.A. § 941
- Education Quality Standard Rules (Series 2000).
- Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.
- Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.
- Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Section 204 of Public Law 111-296.
- Code of Federal Regulations, 7 CFR Part 210 and Part 220