



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Operations
Title	WELLNESS
Code	po8510
Status	Active
Adopted	June 13, 2006
Last Revised	November 25, 2025

8510 - **WELLNESS**

As required by law, the School Board establishes the following wellness policy for the School Corporation as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the Corporation's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. It will be necessary for not only the staff but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits with respect to eating and exercise.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health, healthy nutrition, and physical activity habits:

A. With regard to nutrition education:

1. Nutrition education shall be included in the health curriculum at all grade levels so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
2. Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
3. Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
4. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
5. Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide and USDA's MyPlate, will be displayed in the cafeteria and other appropriate areas visible to students and others in the school community.
6. The school cafeteria shall serve as a learning lab by allowing students to apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills taught in the classroom when making choices at mealtime.

7. Nutrition education benchmarks and standards include a focus on traditional and social media platforms (including podcasts, etc.) related to food marketing and literacy strategies.
8. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks promote the benefits of a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, lean meats, fish, poultry, and plant-based proteins, and low-fat and fat-free milk and dairy products.
9. Instruction related to the standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be provided by highly qualified teachers.

B. With regard to physical activity:

1. Physical Education

- a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- b. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- c. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- d. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- e. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- f. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, bullying, or harassment of any kind.
- g. Planned instruction in physical education shall take into account gender and cultural differences.

2. Physical Activity

- a. Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day (e.g., classroom physical activity breaks).
- b. The school shall encourage families and community organizations to help develop and institute programs that support physical activity of all sorts.
- c. In addition to planned physical education, the school shall provide age-appropriate physical activities (e.g., recess during the school day, intramurals and clubs before and after school, and interscholastic sports) that meet the needs of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special health care needs.
- d. Schools shall offer a wide range of physical activities outside the regular school day that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special healthcare needs.

C. With regard to other school-based activities:

1. Free drinking water shall be available to students during designated meal times and may be available throughout the school day.
2. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimal disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
3. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.

4. Activities, such as tutoring or club meetings, shall not be scheduled during mealtimes, unless students may eat during those meetings.
 5. Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to, and be encouraged to use, the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.
 6. The schools may use environmentally friendly practices, such as the use of locally grown foods and non-disposable tableware and dishes.
 7. The schools may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
 8. Schools in our system utilize electronic identification and payment systems, therefore, eliminating any stigma or identification of students eligible to receive free and/or reduced meals.
 9. Students are discouraged from sharing their food or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.
- D. With regard to nutrition promotion, any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus, during the school day, will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. This includes marketing on school property, on educational materials, where food is purchased, in school publications and school media, and through fundraisers.

Additionally, the Corporation shall:

1. encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day;
2. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods:
 - a. a variety of fresh produce to include those prepared without added fats, sugars, refined sugars, and sodium
 - b. a variety of vegetables daily to include five (5) specific subgroups outlined in the Dietary guidelines for Americans and promoted in the MyPlate materials (dark green, red/orange, beans/peas/lentils, starchy, and other)
 - c. whole grain, including whole and whole grain-rich products that meet school lunch and breakfast program requirements and, if offered, Smart Snack in School standards
 - d. choice of fluid milks that are fat-free or low-fat (unflavored and flavored) at program lunch and breakfast meals with one (1) choice being unflavored
 - e. meals designed to meet specific calorie ranges for age/grade groups
3. require students to select a fruit or vegetable as part of a complete reimbursable meal;
4. discourage rewarding children in the classroom with candy and other foods that can undermine children's diets and health and reinforce unhealthy eating habits. A wide variety of alternative rewards can be used to provide positive reinforcement for children's behavior and academic performance.

Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well-being and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:

- A. In accordance with Policy 8500, entitled Food Service, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program.
- B. The sale of foods of minimal nutritional value in the food service area during the lunch period is prohibited.
- C. As set forth in Policy 8531, entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, the guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

- D. The sale to students of foods and beverages that do not meet the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards to be consumed on the school campus during the school day is prohibited. Competitive foods available for purchase by students à la carte in the dining area, foods or beverages sold from vending machines, and foods and beverages provided by the school or school staff for classroom parties or holiday celebrations are subject to this prohibition.
- E. All foods that are provided, not sold, on the school campus during the school day, including foods and beverages provided for classroom parties or holiday celebrations, shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards and food and beverage standards approved by the Food Service Director.
- F. The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritional value.
- G. The food service program will provide all students with affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well, regardless of unpaid meal balances and without stigma.
- H. The food service program will provide information to families about free/reduced meal eligibility (e.g. sending applications home with all students once a year, posting the application on the school website, etc.).
- I. All food items and beverages available for sale to students for consumption on campus between midnight and thirty (30) minutes after the close of the regular school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans including, but not limited to, competitive foods that are available to students à la carte in the dining area, as well as food items and beverages from vending machines, school stores, or fund-raisers by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs.
- J. The food service program shall be administered by a qualified nutrition professional.
- K. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- L. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program in accordance with USDA professional standards.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the Corporation's implementation and progress under this policy.

The Superintendent shall appoint a Corporation wellness committee that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, nutritionists or certified dietitians, educational staff (including health and physical education teachers), mental health and social services staff, school health professionals, the School Board, school administrators, and members of the public to oversee the development, implementation, evaluation, and periodic update, if necessary, of the wellness policy. School-level health advisory teams may assist in the planning and implementation of these Wellness initiatives.

The Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the committee.

The wellness committee shall be an ad hoc committee of the Board with members recruited and appointed annually.

The wellness committee shall:

- A. assess the current environment in each of the Corporation's schools;
- B. measure the implementation of the Corporation's wellness policy in each of the Corporation's schools;
- C. review the Corporation's current wellness policy;
- D. recommend revision of the policy, as appropriate; and
- E. present the wellness policy, with any recommended revisions, to the Board for approval or re-adoption if revisions are recommended.

Before the end of each school year, the wellness committee shall submit to the Superintendent and Board their report in which they describe the environment in each of the Corporation's schools and the implementation of the wellness policy in each school, and identify any revisions to the policy the committee deems necessary. In its review, the Wellness Committee shall consider evidence-based strategies in determining its recommendations.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the work of the wellness committee, including their assessment of the environment in the Corporation, their evaluation of wellness policy implementation Corporation-wide, and the areas for improvement, if any, that the committee identified. The committee also shall report on the status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining goals established in the policy.

The Superintendent also shall be responsible for informing the public, including parents, students, and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall distribute information at the beginning of the school year to families of school children, include information in the student handbook, and post the wellness policy on the Corporation's website, including the assessment of the implementation of the policy prepared by the Corporation.

The Corporation shall assess the Wellness Policy at least once every three (3) years on the extent to which schools in the Corporation are in compliance with the Corporation policy, the extent to which the Corporation policy compares to model wellness policies, and the progress made in attaining the goals of the Corporation Wellness Policy. To ensure continuing progress, the Corporation will evaluate implementation efforts and their impact on students and staff using the following tool: http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/evaluation-checklist_0.pdf

The assessment shall be made available to the public on the School Corporation's website.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint-filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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, audiotope, 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. E-mail:
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The above nondiscrimination statement complements the Corporation's nondiscrimination policies, including Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity and Policy 1422/Policy 3122/Policy 4122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity.

Revised 9/13/11
Revised 11/11/14
Revised 10/10/17
Revised 10/26/21
Revised 2/28/23

© Neola 2025

Legal

I.C. 20-26-9-18

7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220

42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.

42 U.S.C. 1758b

42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.