

WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE COMMUNITY, WHOLE CHILD



Local School Wellness Policy

JOYNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 2026

Rationale: The link between health of students and learning is well documented. If children are to be successful in school they cannot be tired, hungry, sick, suffering from drug abuse, or worried that school is an unsafe environment in which they could become a victim of a violent act. It has become apparent that problems such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, obesity, bullying, and more – can adversely affect not only a child’s health, but also his or her *ability to learn!* And that is precisely why a coordinated approach to school health can make a difference! A coordinated approach to school health improves kids’ health and their capacity to learn through the support of families, schools, and communities working together. At its very core, a coordinated approach to school health is about keeping students healthy over time, reinforcing positive healthy behaviors throughout the school day, and making it clear that *good health and learning go hand in hand.*

Goal: All students in Joyner Elementary School shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff members in Joyner Elementary School are encouraged to model a lifestyle of healthy eating patterns and moderate physical activity as a valuable part of their daily lives.

To meet this goal, the Joyner Elementary School adopts this school wellness policy with the following commitments to implementing a coordinated approach to school health. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in culture.

In determining these goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness, the Joyner Elementary School Health Council has reviewed and considered evidenced-based strategies.

The Council Members are as follows: Kim Foster, Principal; TR Darsey, SEL Therapist; Kelli Dufford, PE Teacher; Angie McCain, Food Service Manager; Denice Parsons, School Nurse/Health Coordinator; Trae Wyatt, Family & Community Engagement Specialist; Samantha McCarter, PTA Representative; Tai Dauzat, Teacher

Nutrition Environment and Services

Minimum requirements:

The Joyner Elementary School will:

- **Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.**
- **Offer school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.**
- **Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.**

- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school food service staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2001).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2002).
Include goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities to promote student wellness.
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4011),
 - ➔ Healthy food and beverage choices;
 - ➔ Healthy food preparation;
 - ➔ Marketing of healthy food choices to students, staff and parents;
 - ➔ Food preparation ingredients and products;
 - ➔ Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;
 - ➔ Availability of food items during the lunch and breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Programs;
 - ➔ Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. (see Nutrition Environment and Services section of the *Tools That Work – Your Guide to Success for Building a Healthy School* Toolkit that is found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>)
- Establish standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g. in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for the sale of food items for fundraising.
- Use Smart Snacks Resources to educate the school community about the importance of offering healthy snacks for students and staff members.
- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks>

Smart Snacks Product Calculator:

- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Product Calculator is an effective online instrument that has been determined by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to be accurate in assessing product compliance with the federal requirements for Smart Snacks in Schools. The calculator can be used for food and beverage products.
<https://www.healthiergeneration.org/>

Food Safe Schools

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school sites. HACCP Principles for K-12 schools can be downloaded at:

<http://www.nfsmi.org/ResourcesOverview.aspx?ID=151>

- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with Fight Bac® (www.fightbac.org) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in schools.

Ensure that all staff has received instructions to support food safety on the school campus. Food Safety resources have been developed by the Office of Child Nutrition to assist with the training of school staff members. These resources which include a training power-point presentation, food Safety Post Test and Food Safety Post Test Answer Key can be found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at www.mde.k12.ms.us/ohs/home .

<http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>

- All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, foodservice staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy that includes food safety policies and procedures and provides for relevant professional development.
- Adequate access to hand-washing facilities and supplies will be available **whenever and wherever** students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- Encourage students to make food choices based on the **Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA)** and the **ChooseMyPlate** resources, by emphasizing menu options that feature baked (rather than fried foods), whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables, and reduced-fat dairy products. Read more about HHFKA at ChooseMyPlate at <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>
- Establish a cafeteria environment conducive to a positive dining experience, with socializing among students and between students and adults; with supervision of eating areas by adults who model proper conduct and voice level; and with adults who model healthy habits by eating with the students.
- Replace deep fat fryers with combination oven steamers.
- Make school meals accessible to all students with a variety of delivery strategies, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go lunches, or alternate eating sites.
- Provide nutrition information for parents, including nutrition analysis of school meals and resources to help parents improve food that they serve at home.
- Provide parents, caregivers, vendors, and any other community members who provide or are likely to provide foods prepared for consumption at school events with appropriate food safety information.

Physical Education/Physical Activity

Minimum requirements:

The Joyner Elementary School will:

- **Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, Mississippi Code of 1972, ann., reference 2014 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 27.1.**
- **Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).**
- **(N/A) Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.**
(N/A) Require fitness testing for high school students; during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- **Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.**
- **Instruction must be based on 2013-2014 Mississippi Physical Education Frameworks.**
- **Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007 (Senate Bill 2369).**
- **(N/A) Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie unit in physical education.**
- **(N/A) Beginning with 9th graders in school year 2015-2016, provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9-12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for physical education or health Education. MS Code 37-13-134 (Senate Bill 2185)**
- **(N/A) Address concussions by adopting and implementing a policy for students in grades 7-12 who participate in activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). This policy will include a concussion recognition course that has been endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Health. This course will provide information on the nature and risk of concussions for students participating in athletics. Also included in the policy, parents/guardians will be provided with a concussion policy before the start of regular school athletic season. (House Bill 48)**
Links to resources to aid policy development and Office of Healthy Schools website
www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/high_school.html#5
<http://www.misshsaa.com/GeneralInfo/SportsMedicine.aspx>
- <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- Incorporate 5 to 10-minute physical activity sessions in classrooms to teach subject areas and to make transitions between different lessons (Examples can be found at www.movetolearnms.org)
- Establish or enhance physical activity opportunities (like walking clubs or fitness challenges) for staff and/or parents. (i.e. - Walk to School, Fall Festival Fun Run)
- Provide staff-monitored recreational activities that promote moderate physical activity during all outdoor and indoor recess times.
- Encourage active transportation to/from schools by assessing the safest routes for students to walk or bike to school, and by installing bike racks at school buildings. Program descriptions and assessment tools available at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Safeschools/>
- Collaborate with local recreational departments and youth fitness programs to promote participation in lifelong physical activities. (i.e. - Healthy Heroes, Tupelo Park & Rec, NMMC Wellness Ctr.)

STATE REQUIREMENTS MONITORED BY THE OFFICE OF HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Health Education

Minimum requirements:

The Joyner Elementary School will:

- (N/A) Provide ½ Carnegie unit of health education for graduation (2012 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- (N/A) Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades 9-12 (2012 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades K-8.
- (N/A) Implement the requirements of MS Code 37-13-171, which requires the development of a sex related education policy and instruction on medically accurate or evidenced based abstinence-only or abstinence-plus curricula.
- (N/A) Beginning with 9th graders in school year 2015-2016, provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9-12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for health education or physical education. MS Code 37-13-134 (Senate Bill 2185)

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- Participate in USDA nutrition programs such as *Team Nutrition Schools* and the *Healthier U.S. School Challenge*. The school will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve students, parents, and the community. The school team responsible for planning nutrition activities will include school food service staff, school nurses, health and PE teachers, coaches, and additional staff, as appropriate.
- Integrate Health Education into other subject areas. www.move-to-learn.ms.org (Click on Lesson Plans).
- Provide Universal Precautions training and Universal Precautions Kits for all teachers, superintendents and staff. **Health Services**

Minimum requirements: The Joyner Elementary School will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the 2013 *Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care*.
- Provide for teachers and staff training regarding signs and symptoms of asthma. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- Every child who has been diagnosed with asthma must have an asthma action plan on file in the school office.
- Know the district anaphylaxis policy. Providing training by a healthcare professional, preferably a school nurse, for the individuals that will be responsible for implementing the policy at the school site. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- The school nurse should submit health services data on the 10th of each month for the previous month.
- Offer comprehensive health services for students in grades K-12, through the employment of school nurses, as a means to academic success.
- Optimize the provision of health services with a school nurse-to-student ratio of 1:750 for students in the general population.
- Work with students, parents, and local healthcare providers to effectively manage and treat chronic diseases.
- Promote healthy lifestyles through school and community events (PTA meetings, open houses, Wuzzy Bear @ Joyner, teacher in-services, and other events).
- Schools may seek community support that provides auto-injector epinephrine to stock emergency medication needs.

Counseling, Psychological and Social Service/Social and Emotional Climate

Minimum requirements: The Joyner Elementary School will:

- **Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (436 or 451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and scores a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.**
- **Abide by Mississippi Code 37-9-79 (Amended 2014) as the school provides for counseling and guidance for students.**
- **Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. MS Code 37-9-79 - (Amended 2014-Senate Bill 2423)**
- **Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.**
- **Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:**
 - ➔ **Academic and personal/social counseling.**
 - ➔ **Student assessment and assessment counseling.**
 - ➔ **Career and educational counseling.**
 - ➔ **Individual and group counseling.**
 - ➔ **Crisis intervention and preventive counseling.**
 - ➔ **Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the State Department of Education shall require that local school districts conduct in-service training on suicide prevention**

education for all school district employees. Thereafter, only new employees are required to have training.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health will be responsible for developing the content of the training (HB 263).

- Referrals to community agencies.
- Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders.
- Education and career placement services.
- Follow-up counseling services.
- Conflict resolution.
- Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students as outlined by the American School Counselor Association

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- Provide additional services to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health.
- Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.
- Hire qualified counselors who will address the mental health, academic, and career needs of students in the school setting.

Family Engagement and Community Involvement

Minimum requirements:

The Joyner Elementary School will:

- Invite parents and community members to participate in school health planning by serving on the local School Health Council.
- Establish methods to inform and update the public regarding the LSWP and the assessment of the LSWP

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- Invite community members to participate in health and/or physical education classes
- Provide resources and training to parents on health-related topics, parenting skills, child development, and family relationships.
- Invite family and community volunteers to lead physical activities for children (Fall Festival Fun Run, Discovery Garden efforts, FoodCorp participation, Tupelo Garden Club, etc.)
- Encourage health education skill-building activities at home by including homework for health instruction, personal goal setting for healthy behaviors, and other health education-related activities. (i.e. - SEL "Character Strong" Family Connection)
- Update parents on school health successes through monthly newsletters and/or email.
- Increase PTA/PTO Membership.
- Plan Healthy Rewards for students and encourage parents to do the same.

Employee Wellness

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

The Joyner Elementary School will:

- Make as a **Requirement** that all staff are aware of the Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan that has been enhanced to include **My Active Health**, a wellness and health promotion program designed to help individuals live a healthy lifestyle and increase their overall wellness benefit – <http://www.MyActiveHealth.com/Mississippi>
- Promote health and reduce risk factors through professional and staff development programs, providing information flyers and newsletters, introducing incentives for participating in healthy practices and activities, and offering an employee assistance program.
- Encourage after school health and fitness sessions for school staff.
- Organize/Encourage employee walking teams or clubs.
- Develop relationships with community health providers (e.g., local health departments, hospitals, neighborhood clinics, health professionals), recreational facilities, voluntary health organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association), and other community members who can provide resources for or support school employee wellness activities. (i.e. flu shots)
- Coordinate Staff Wellness events and activities with state and national health observances throughout the year.

Marketing a Healthy School Environment

Minimum requirements:

- Eliminate advertising or promoting unhealthy food choices on the school campus. Advertising must be restricted to only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School Nutrition Standards.

Optional policy statements (must adopt a minimum of one policy as appropriate for local school goals):

- Provide positive, consistent, and motivating messages about healthy lifestyle practices throughout the school setting.
- Use school announcement systems, internal TV channels, school website, Facebook, text messaging and other social media to promote health messages to students and families.
- Use traditional marketing materials such as posters, flyers, T-shirts, wrist bands, buttons, etc. to promote health messages to students and families.
- Promote healthful eating, physical activity, and healthy lifestyles to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community at school events (e.g., school registration, parent teacher conferences, PTA meetings, open houses, health fairs, teacher in-services, and other events).
- Work with the local newspaper, TV and radio to promote healthy lifestyles and to highlight the benefits and successes of school health initiatives

Implementation

Minimum requirements: The Joyner Elementary School will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to ensure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written. The Joyner Elementary School designates Administrator, PE Specialist, & School Nurse for this purpose.
- Establish and support a School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).
- Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas for improvement.
- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary to update and modify the program as appropriate.

Optional policy statements (adopt as appropriate for local school goals):

- Use monitoring instruments, developed by the Office of Healthy Schools, to conduct a self assessment that identifies strengths and weaknesses toward implementation of the minimum requirements. Monitoring instruments can be downloaded at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS> - Click on Resources

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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