

STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY #5405 & STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES POLICY #5420

August 2026

Dear Parents,

We all know that a healthy school environment is instrumental to student achievement. The East Islip School District reviews and/or revises its **Student Wellness Policy #5405 and Student Health Services Policy #5420** annually as part of our aim to sustain student wellness. As you may be aware, school boards across the nation had to adopt local wellness policies back in 2006 in order to participate in the National School Breakfast and/or Lunch Program. New federal provisions enhance the previous requirements by (1) strengthening requirements for ongoing implementation, assessment, and public reporting of wellness policies and (2) expanding the team of collaborators participating in policy development to include more school and community members.

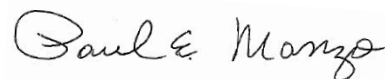
Input was gathered from interested stakeholders who then developed thoughtful recommendations on needed wellness policy revisions. This health focused group provided input on our local implementation plan. Stakeholders included school board members, school administrators, business officers, child nutrition directors, school nurses, teachers, physical education specialists, health educators, and parents. The district's Wellness Committee will continue to review our existing wellness policy as well as our allergy policy to provide input and monitor the existing policies, which we are all to take very seriously.

These policies (Student Wellness Policy #5405 and Student Health Services Policy #5420) can be found on the district web page at www.eischools.org – “Board of Education” tab/Board Docs/Policies; as well as under the “Parents” tab/“Student Health Information.” I encourage you to read them thoroughly. **As parents, it is your obligation to notify your child's school of any documented food allergy or episodes of anaphylaxis and provide the school with any pertinent medical information and physician's treatment protocol.** We are in contact with our food service provider to ensure that they are familiar with such policies and that all foods and beverages sold by the schools will meet and/or exceed nutrient standards established by the USDA.

Most importantly, parents will be notified at the very start of the school year with a list of allergies in each classroom. A follow up reminder will be given out at our “Meet the Teacher” nights this fall. **There are no longer any food-based celebrations in our classrooms.**

Please sign the attached “Summary of the Student Health Services Policy” form and return it to your child's classroom teacher. If you have any questions regarding these policies, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Manzo
Superintendent of Schools



SUMMARY OF THE STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

Food allergies appear to be increasing in frequency and the number of students affected is rising. Due to the seriousness of food allergies, the East Islip School District continually reviews our policy and regulation, and we want to ensure all our families are aware of these policies.

Please review the most important components below which will be in effect in our schools. Please fill out the tear off below and sign it to confirm your awareness of this information.

1. All children will be made aware of the importance of not sharing or trading food, utensils, or containers. In each cafeteria there is a table designated as “allergy free.” Children without allergies may sit at these tables only with permission of the cafeteria aide and must have lunches purchased in the cafeteria. They may not share food.
2. Our schools will be enforcing a non-food-based celebration policy. This is in order to avoid dangerous situations for children having potentially life-threatening allergies. Parents and students will not be permitted to bring any food(s) into school for birthday celebrations.
3. Transportation and Field Trips – There is no eating permitted on school buses when children are being transported to and from school. Additionally, food is not to be permitted on school buses on field trips.
4. Middle School and High School – At the secondary level, there are fewer in-class birthday celebrations. There is, however, more of a need for curriculum based, food centered activities, such as Family Consumer Science classes, Foreign Language classes. Prior to these events, letters are sent home to parents informing them of the upcoming event. The District’s food service provider is encouraged to be used, and the cafeteria is used whenever possible instead of classrooms. Signs will also be posted in the middle school and high school to remind students that they must be aware of the possible presence of nuts or nut products.

The policies (Student Wellness #5405 and Student Health Services #5420) may be found on our district website at www.eischools.org. We thank you in advance for working collaboratively with our schools and our district to maximize student safety.

Child’s Name: _____ School Year: _____
(Please print)

Child’s Classroom Teacher: _____

I have read the important parts of the District’s *Student Wellness* and *Student Health Services* policies and regulations above and will discuss them with my child.

Parent’s Name: _____ Date: _____
(Please print)

Parent’s Signature: _____