

#### 4.29 Wellness Policy

A significant amount of research exists showing the important roles nutrition and physical health play in student learning. To increase the likelihood for students to achieve their full academic potential, the district is committed to promoting health and wellness in all its school sites. This policy outlines the district's goals and procedures to ensure:

- Students have access to healthy foods at school in accordance with federal and state nutrition standards
- Students receive quality nutrition education to help them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and after school
- Individual school sites promote nutrition, physical activity and other behaviors which encourage wellness
- The community is welcome in the district's wellness program
- The smooth operation of the district's wellness program

The board encourages staff to engage in healthy eating and appropriate physical activity since staff members serve as role models for district students.

#### District Wellness Committee Membership and Leadership

The district's wellness program will be coordinated by the child nutrition director ("CND"). The CND will annually designate one (1) individual at each school site to be a site level liaison for the district's program and will publicize this information on the district's website, in school newsletters and by other means as he/she determines appropriate. Individual sites will publicize the name and contact information for their site liaison in school newsletters, as a part of routine parent updates, and through other appropriate methods.

Although the district's wellness program is coordinated by the CND, the program will be based on the work of the district's wellness committee. The committee will meet once each quarter during the school year for the purpose of reviewing existing wellness activities, brainstorming new activities, reviewing and assessing the district's wellness policies and procedures, and related actions.

Membership in the committee will be open to interested parents, students, health care providers, social service workers and school representatives. The committee will

include, minimally, the child nutrition director, a PE teacher, a school administrator and all site liaisons.

A staff subcommittee comprised of the CND, a human resources representative, a teacher representative and an administrator will focus on staff development. The subcommittee will meet once per semester and will focus on providing wellness resources and strategies to teachers. The subcommittee will make 193

recommendations regarding professional development related to health, wellness, integrating kinesthetic learning and the overall connection between wellness and learning.

### Assessment, Planning and Reporting

The CND is responsible for conducting a district assessment using tools available through the Centers for Disease Control. Once the assessment is completed, the committee will develop and maintain a plan to implement and manage the district's wellness program. The district's plan will be specific for each site (although the site plans may be substantially similar) and delineate the roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines for wellness activities. It will also include specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on campus, outside food/beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity and education and other wellness activities. The plan will be regularly assessed, reviewed and updated in light of district needs, emerging research and to ensure compliance with the latest local, state and federal standards.

The site liaison will annually prepare progress reports on the implementation and progress of the plan at his/her site (including the activities conducted), and the CND will annually present a synopsis of this information to the board.

The CND will also prepare a triennial progress assessment for the board. This assessment will include information such as the extent to which individual schools are in compliance with the policy, how the district's program compares with federal standards and a description of the overall progress in attaining the district's goals.

A copy of all assessments, plans and progress reports will be available through the CND. The CND will also maintain documentation demonstrating efforts to involve non-employees in the committee, minutes from the committee meetings, notes regarding wellness activities conducted, and information regarding how this information was made available to families and community members.

### Open Communication

The CND and site liaisons are expected to make an effort to involve all district families and interested community members in the district's wellness initiatives. This also includes providing parents with information regarding health and wellness, the district's policy and plan, activities, involvement opportunities, school meal standards and available child nutrition programs. This information will be communicated through

a variety of methods, including publication in newsletters and on the website, at enrollment, back to school nights and similar activities. 194

### School Meals

The district participates in the following USDA child nutrition programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Farm to School

Participation in these programs is designed to ensure students receive plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free/low-fat milk to meet their nutrition needs. School meals are also calorically appropriate, moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat and have zero grams of trans fat.

Goals of the district's meal program include:

- Improving overall health
- Mitigating childhood obesity
- Modeling healthy eating in support of lifelong eating patterns
- Accommodating cultural food preference and special dietary needs

School meals:

- Are accessible to all students
- Are appealing and attractive to children
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices by:
  - Displaying whole fruit options in attractive bowls or baskets
  - Making sliced or cut fruit available daily

- Displaying daily fruit options in students' line of sight/reach
- Creatively naming vegetable options
- Training servers 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
- Creating a reimbursable meal in all service areas (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.)
- Using student surveys and taste testing opportunities to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas
- Displaying student artwork in the service and/or dining areas
- Marketing menu options through daily announcements<sup>195</sup>

#### Qualifications and Training

All school nutrition employees will meet or exceed USDA hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements.

#### Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day, including during mealtimes. Students may also bring and carry approved water bottles – filled only with water – throughout the day.

#### Competitive Foods and Beverages

Foods and beverages sold or offered apart from the school meal programs (competitive items) will, at a minimum, meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School standards. This includes competitive items at celebrations and parties. The CND is responsible for annually disseminating healthy and non-food party ideas to teachers, who will provide this information to parents who are bringing classroom snacks.

No food or beverage will be used as a reward or withheld as a punishment, unless specified in a qualified student's IEP.

#### Fundraising

Competitive items may be sold during the school day as a fundraiser as long as those items meet USDA Smart Snacks in School standards.

The CND will annually provide staff and PTA representatives a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

### Health and Nutrition Education

Good nutrition will be encouraged throughout the school day using evidence-based techniques, including creative marketing for nutritious food choices. This will create a food environment which encourages healthy eating and participation in school meal programs. Wellness committee employees and child nutrition workers will regularly consult federal and state resources for current tips and resources to implement these requirements.

The district's nutrition education will:

- Provide knowledge and skills so students can protect their health
- Be integrated across disciplines
- Be enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, and culturally relevant
- Promote nutritious foods and preparation methods<sup>196</sup>
- Emphasize caloric balance (promote exercise)
- Coordinate with school meal and other relevant programs
- Teach media literacy related to food/beverage marketing

The district's health education curriculum will include:

- The relationship between eating, personal health and disease
- Food guidance from MyPlate
- Reading and using USDA's food labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars

- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on eating, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid nutrition and dietary information
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy behavior

### Advertising

In order to provide a consistent message for students, only those foods and beverages which meet USDE Smart Snacks in School standards may advertise on district property. This includes:

- Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors
- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards, or backboards (Note:

the district will not immediately replace existing items, but will not accept or allow new items which violate this policy) 197

- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on cups, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, assignment books, or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered, or sold by the district
- Advertisements in school publications or mailings
- Free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product

### Physical Activity

All schools will make a variety of physical activity available throughout the school day and will also seek opportunities to provide afterschool physical activities. The district's physical activities include PE classes, recess, classroom based physical activity and afterschool activities. Physical activity, including recess, will not be withheld as a punishment. This does not include participation in extracurricular activities which are privilege based. The district will maintain safe and appropriate grounds and facilities to promote active students.

### Physical Education Classes

All district students, except those excused due to medical necessity, will participate in age-appropriate, sequential PE classes as required by state and federal curriculum standards. Students will also participate in state and/or federal assessments which promote fitness.

### Health Education – Physical Activity

The following topics will be included in the district's health education curriculum:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness (cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition)
- Differences between physical activity, exercise, and fitness

- Phases of an exercise session (warm up, workout, and cool down)
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety (e.g., avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia, and sunburn while being physically active)
- How much physical activity is enough (determining frequency, intensity, time, and type of physical activity)<sup>198</sup>
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching physical activity plan goals
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity (media, family, peers, culture)
- How to find valid fitness information or services
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others' physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity

#### Recess (Elementary School Students)

All elementary sites will offer at least twenty (20) minutes of recess every school day, except when early dismissal or similar scheduling requirements make this impractical. Recess is separate from PE classes.

Time for hand washing, putting away coats, etc. will be built into recess transition periods to ensure students have adequate time for both recess and eating. For classes who participate in recess prior to lunch, adequate hand washing facilities will be readily available to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating.

Recess will be outside unless weather or other emergency conditions make this inadvisable. If recess is conducted inside, efforts will be made to promote physical activity during recess. This includes activities such as shared gymnasium time, walking in the hallways, classroom physical activity videos, and/or any other activities deemed appropriate.



Recess monitors will encourage students to be active and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside students when practical.

### Physical Activity in the Classroom

To increase attention to learning and to promote wellness, all students will be provided with brief, periodic activity breaks for stretching. Movement and kinesthetic learning will be routinely incorporated into lessons for all subjects.

### Active Transport

The district supports active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking. The administration will encourage this behavior by:

- Designating preferred routes to school
- Providing secure storage facilities for bicycles and helmets
- Providing instruction on walking/bicycling safety
- Using crossing guards
- Establishing crosswalks near the school sites
- Documenting the number of children walking or biking to/from school

### Other Activities to Promote Wellness

The district's wellness approach will be integrated across the entire school setting, including all school sponsored events.

All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity opportunities. The district will also seek opportunities to partner with the community in support of this program. The CND is responsible for evaluating proposed partnerships, sponsors and activities to ensure that they comply with the district's wellness objectives.