

STUDENT WELLNESS

Given the documented connection between proper nutrition, adequate physical activity and educational success, the Board of Education adopts the following goals and authorizes the following actions to provide district students with a school environment that promotes student health and wellness and reduces childhood obesity.

For purposes of this policy, “school campus” means all areas of district property accessible to students during the school day; “school day” means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day; and “competitive food” means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under federal food programs available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day.

I. Foods and Beverages Available to Students on School Campus During the School Day the Board recognizes that a nutritious, well-balanced, reasonably portioned diet is essential for student wellness. To help students possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices for a lifetime, the district shall ensure that all foods and beverages available in school promote good nutrition, balance, and reasonable portion sizes. Meal service through the district’s food services program shall comply with the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast standards for meal patterns, nutrient levels, and calorie requirements for the ages/grade levels served, as specified in 7 CFR 210.10 or 220.8, as applicable. (working links provided). The cafeteria is cashless. All students, regardless of the type of payment they make for school meals or the food being purchased, are given a code to enter at the cash register. All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA Professional Standards for Child Nutrition Professionals. These school nutrition personnel will refer to USDA’s Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website to search for training that meets their learning needs.

A. School Meals – the district shall:

1. Provide breakfast through the USDA School Breakfast program.
2. Include fruits, vegetables, salads, whole grains, and low-fat items at least to the extent required by federal regulations.
3. Encourage students to try new or unfamiliar items.
4. Make efforts to ensure that families are aware of need-based programs for free or reduced-price meals and encourage eligible families to apply.
5. Will serve produce and food from local farms and suppliers.

6. Ensure students and staff will have access to free, safe, and fresh drinking water throughout the day.
7. Make the cafeteria cashless. All students, regardless of the type of payment they make for school meals or the food being purchased, are given a code to enter at the cash register.
8. Provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, grades K-12.
9. Discourage consumption of competitive foods in place of school meals by limiting competitive food choices during mealtimes in the cafeteria.

B. Meal Scheduling – the district shall:

1. After obtaining food, students will have at least 20 minutes to eat lunch.
2. Schedule lunchtime between normal lunch hours (10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

C. Foods and Beverages Sold Individually (e.g., a la carte, vending machines, school stores) – the district shall:

1. Ensure that all such items meet the nutrition standards set in federal regulations for competitive foods regarding whole grains, fruits, vegetables, calories, fat, saturated fats, trans fats, sugar, sodium, and caffeine.
2. Permit the sale of fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables, if processed pursuant to federal regulations, as exempt from the nutrition standards.
3. Work with existing vendors or locate new vendors that will comply with nutrition standards.
4. Ensure all snacks sold to children before, during, and after school will meet USDA Smart Snack nutrition standards.
5. Prohibit the sale of beverages containing caffeine on school grounds.

D. Fund-Raising Activities – the district shall:

1. Ensure that all fundraisers selling food or beverages to students on school campus during the school day meet the competitive foods nutrition standards set in federal regulations for whole grains, fruits, vegetables, calories, fat, saturated fats, trans fats, sugar, sodium, and caffeine.
2. Promote non-food items to sell, or activities (physical or otherwise) in which to participate.
3. Smart Snacks nutrition standards apply to all foods and beverages sold to students through district-sponsored fundraisers, unless an exemption applies. Each school will be allowed to hold 3 exempt fundraisers per school year during which any food or beverages may be sold.

E. School and Class Parties, Celebrations, and Events where food and beverages are provided, but not sold – the district shall:

1. This section applies to all school and classroom parties, snacks which have been brought in for the class or school, celebrations, food provided to learn about cultures or countries, and other events where food is provided but not sold.
2. Schools shall set guidelines for the frequency and content of classroom and school-wide celebrations where food and beverages are provided.
3. The district shall promote the use of food and beverage items which meet the standards for competitive foods and beverages, promote non-food activities, and discourage foods and beverages which do not meet those standards, at celebrations.
4. Model the healthy use of food as a natural part of celebrations.

F. Marketing of Foods and Beverages

1. Marketing on the school campus will be limited to those products that are allowed to be sold according to the district's nutrition standards.
2. The advertising of foods and beverages that are not available for sale in district will not be advertised on any school property.
2. Marketing includes all advertising and promotions: verbal, written, or graphic, or promotional items.
3. Advertising of any food or beverages that may not be sold on campus during the school day is prohibited. Advertising of any brand on containers used to serve food or in areas where food is purchased is prohibited.
4. Criteria for selecting educational materials for the classroom shall be expanded to include review of advertising content. Every effort will be made to select materials free of brand names/logos and illustrations of unhealthy foods.
5. The district will not expose students to food marketing of any kind. All advertising in school publications and school media outlets must be approved by the principal.

II. Physical Activity

Physical activity is an important factor in staying healthy and being ready to learn. The school district's comprehensive standards-based physical education curriculum identifies the progression of skill development in grades K-12. Physical education curriculum revision will follow a formally established periodic review cycle congruent to other academic subjects. In addition, staff, families, and community are encouraged to participate in and model physical activity as a valuable part of daily life. The district's Physical Education program shall adhere to the curricular requirements of the Commissioner of Education and the New York State Learning Standards.

A. Physical Education

1. Physical Education for grades K-12 is required to be taught by a certified/licensed teacher who is endorsed to teach physical education.

2. Students shall engage in physical education for at least the minimum number of hours or days per week under State requirements. Grades 7-12 will have PE on a rotating schedule of 3 days one week and 2 days the following week.
3. Physical Education classes shall incorporate the appropriate NYS Learning Standards.
4. Promote, teach and provide opportunities to practice activities that students enjoy and can pursue throughout their lives (e.g., yoga, fitness walking, step aerobics).
5. The performance or withholding of physical activity shall not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.
6. Schools may not allow students to be exempt for required physical education class time or credit. The only exemption would be for medical reasons.
7. All staff involved in physical education should be provided with opportunities for professional development.

B. Recess

1. Maintain daily allotment of recess time for elementary school.
2. Recess shall not be used for punishment. Extra recess may be used as a reward in place of food-based incentives.
3. Permit scheduling recess before lunch.
4. Recess will be held outdoors whenever possible, and indoors during the most inclement weather, at the discretion of the Building Principal.

C. Physical Activity in the Classroom

1. Promote the integration of physical activity in the classroom, both as activity breaks and as part of the educational process (e.g., kinesthetic learning).
2. If the district is under severe time or space constraints, consider meeting the state requirements for Physical Education through collaborative and integrative in-classroom activity, under the supervision of a Physical Education teacher.

D. Extracurricular Opportunities for Physical Activity

1. Promote clubs and activities that meet the various physical activity needs, interests, and abilities of all students (e.g., walking, hiking and climbing, snowshoeing), including before and after school activities.
2. Promote students walking/biking to school (with proper storage of bicycles), safe routes to school, and “walking” school buses.
3. The setting of extracurricular activity eligibility participation requirements does not constitute withholding opportunities.
4. Physical activity opportunities should be provided at the school for families and community members.

5. All schools will develop joint-use agreements with community partners in order to provide expanded physical activity opportunities for all students, staff and community members.
6. School physical activity equipment will be available for use by staff before or after school to support employee wellness.

III. Nutrition Promotion and Education

The Board believes that nutrition promotion and education is a key component in introducing and reinforcing healthy behaviors in students. Nutrition promotion and education that teaches the knowledge, skills, and values needed to adopt healthy eating behaviors shall be integrated into the curriculum for grades K-12. Nutrition promotion and education information shall be offered throughout the school campus including, but not limited to, school dining areas and classrooms. Staff members who provide nutrition promotion and education shall be appropriately certified and trained. The district's broader Health Education program shall incorporate the appropriate New York State Learning Standards.

1. Include nutrition education as part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects.
2. Include enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens.
3. Promote fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low fat dairy products, safe and healthy food preparation methods, and health enhancing nutrition practices.
4. Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure.
5. Teach media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing.
6. School staff members shall be encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

IV. Other School-Based Activities

The district may implement other appropriate programs that help create a school environment that conveys consistent wellness messages and is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, health forums or fairs, health newsletters, parent outreach, employee health and wellness activities, limiting the use of food as a reward, reviewing food marketing and advertising in school, hosting or promoting community-wide events, and offering wellness-related courses in the district's adult education program.

V. Implementation

The Board shall designate the Elementary Principal as District Wellness Coordinator responsible for ensuring that the provisions of this policy are carried out throughout the district. The Board may also designate one person in each building as School Wellness Coordinator to ensure that the wellness activities and actions are being implemented at the building level.

The Elementary Principal as District Wellness Coordinator, shall report every three years to the Board and the public on the implementation and effectiveness of this policy. Every three years, the District Wellness Coordinator, in consultation with appropriate personnel and advisory committees, shall monitor and review the district's wellness activities to determine the extent that district schools are complying with this policy, how this policy compares to model wellness policies, and the progress made toward attaining the goals of this policy and whether this policy is having a positive effect on increasing student wellness and decreasing childhood obesity in the district. Based on those results, this policy, and the specific objectives set to meet its goals, may be revised as needed.

Parents, students, food service professionals, physical education teachers, school health professionals, school administrators, the general public, and the school board shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of this wellness policy. To do this, the district shall establish an advisory committee, and invite participation via notices in school publications; staff and student announcements, handbooks and memos; the district website; and outreach to school-associated organizations interested persons and those with valuable expertise].

The district shall inform and update the public (including parents, students and others in the community) about the content and implementation of this wellness policy posting this policy (and any updates) on the district website. The district shall monitor and review the implementation and effectiveness of this policy by conducting:

1. Periodic informal surveys of Building Principals, classroom staff, and school health personnel to assess the progress of wellness activities and their effects.
2. Periodic checks of the nutritional content of food offered in the cafeterias for meals and a la carte items, and sales or consumption figures for such foods.
3. Periodic checks of the nutritional content of food available in vending machines, and sales or consumption figures for such foods.
4. Periodic completion of relevant portions of the CDC School Health Index.
5. Periodic review of data currently collected by the district, including:
 - a. attendance data, particularly absences due to illness;
 - b. test scores;
 - c. rates of suspension, discipline, and violent incidents;

- d. physical education scores on flexibility, endurance, and strength (i.e., fitness test results);
 - e. student BMI (Body Mass Index) statistics, as collected in accordance with the State Department of Health efforts; and
 - f. revenues generated from vending machines and a la carte food items.
6. Periodic surveys of student/parent opinions of cafeteria offerings and wellness efforts.
 7. NYSSBA's Student Wellness Assessment Checklist every three years to review the effectiveness of this policy.

VII. Recordkeeping

The district shall keep records as required by federal regulations, including documentation of the following: this policy; the district's community involvement activities described above; that the policy is made available to the public; the assessments done every three years; how the public is informed of the assessment results; and when and how the policy is reviewed and updated.

1. The district wellness committee meets quarterly throughout the school year.

Ref: P.L. 111-296 (The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010), §204 amending 42 USC §1758b

P.L. 108-265 (Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004), §204
42 USC §§1758(f)(1); 1766(a) (Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act)
42 USC §1779 (Child Nutrition Act)

7 CFR §§210.10; 210.11; 210.11a; 210.12; 210.15; 210.18; 210.30 (National School Lunch Program participation requirements – nutrition standards for lunch and competitive foods; community involvement; recordkeeping; state review; local wellness policy)

7 CFR §§220.8; 220.12 (School Breakfast Program participation requirements – nutrition standards for meals and competitive foods)

8 NYCRR Part 135 (Health and Physical Education curricular requirements); §114.1 (School Breakfast Program Requirements)

Appeal of Phillips, 37 EDR 204 (1997) (dec. no. 13,843) (physical education requirements)

Appeal of Williams, 32 EDR 621 (1993) (dec. no. 12,934) (physical education requirements)

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