

WELLNESS POLICY

The board promotes healthy students by supporting wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. The school district supports a healthy environment where students learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. By facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity, schools contribute to the basic health status of students. Improved health optimizes student performance potential.

The school district provides a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors. The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school district goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity.

The school district supports and promotes proper dietary habits contributing to students' health status and academic performance. All foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities during the instructional day should meet or exceed the school district nutrition standards and in compliance with state and federal law. Foods should be served with consideration toward nutritional integrity, variety, appeal, taste, safety and packaging to ensure high-quality meals.

The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Toward this end, the school district may utilize electronic identification and payment systems; provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income; promote the availability of meals to all students; and/or use nontraditional methods for serving meals, such as "grab-and-go" or classroom breakfast.

The school district will develop a local wellness policy committee comprised of parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and the public, physical education teachers, and school health professionals. The local wellness policy committee will develop a plan to implement the local wellness policy and periodically review and update the policy. The committee will designate an individual to monitor implementation and evaluation the implementation of the policy. The committee will report annually to the board and community regarding the content and effectiveness of this policy and recommend updates if needed. When monitoring implementation, schools will be evaluated individually with reports prepared by each school and the school district as a whole. The report will include which schools are in compliance with this policy, the extent to which this policy compares to model Wellness policies and describe the progress made in achieving the goals of this policy.

Approved 01/07/2013 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

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Specific Wellness Goals (*boards need to insert their specific goals here*)

- specific goals for nutrition, education, and promotion, (*see Appendix A*)
- physical activity, (*see Appendix B*)
- other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness, (*see Appendix C*)

The nutrition guidelines for all foods available will focus on promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity across the school district.

The board will monitor and evaluate this policy every five years, (*see Appendix D*).

Legal Reference: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.* (2005)
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 *et seq.*,

Cross Reference: 504.6 Student Activity Program
710 School Food Services

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

The school district will provide nutrition, education, and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices; and
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and physical activity.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Daily Physical Education

The school district will provide physical education that:

- is for all students in grades K-12 for the entire school year, unless following exemption;
- is taught by a certified physical education teacher; and,
- engages students in moderate to vigorous activity at least 50% of class time.

Daily Recess

Elementary schools should provide recess for students that:

- is at least 20 minutes a day;
- is preferably outdoors; and,
- encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity and Punishment

Employees should not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education) as punishment.

OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE STUDENT WELLNESS

Communication with Parents

The school district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The school district will:

- encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet established nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages; and,
- provide parents a list of foods that meet the school district's snack standard and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards and fundraising activities.

Food Marketing in Schools

School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. The school district will:

- promote healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products; and
- market activities that promote healthful behaviors including: vending machine covers promoting water, pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines; and sales of fruit for fundraisers.

Staff Wellness

The school district values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The school district will:

- develop, promote and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness developed by the wellness committee.
- Base the plan on input solicited from employees and outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among employees.

NUTRITION GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOODS AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS

Schools Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by state and federal law;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- serve only fat-free milk and nutritionally equivalent non-dairy alternatives (as defined by the USDA); and,

Breakfast

To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn, schools will:

- operate the breakfast program, to the extent possible;
- notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program; and,
- encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials or other means.

Free and Reduced-Priced Meals

The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Toward this end, the school district may:

- utilize electronic identification and payment systems;
- provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income; and,
- promote the availability of meals to all students.

Meal Times and Scheduling

The school district:

- will provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch;
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; should not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
- will schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools);
- will provide students access to hand washing or sanitizing before they eat meals/snacks; and

Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods Available on Campus

- should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

Qualification of Food Service Staff

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the meal programs. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will:

- provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals.

Sharing of Foods

The school district discourages students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Foods Sold Outside the Meal (e.g. vending, a la carte, sales)

All foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores or fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day will meet nutrition standards as required by state or federal law. For current state guidelines, click here <http://tinyurl.com/iowa-HKA>.

Fundraising Activities

There are two types of fundraising – regulated and other. Regulated fundraisers are those that offer the sale of foods or beverages on school property and that are targeted primarily to PK-12 students by or through other PK-12 students, student groups, school organizations, or through on-campus school stores. Regulated fundraising activities must comply with the state nutrition guidelines. All other fundraising activities are encouraged, but not required, to comply with the state nutrition guidelines if the activities involve foods and beverages. Food items should be based upon the Healthy Kids Act (HKA) Calculator.

The school district encourages fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The school district will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

Snacks

Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage.

Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages and other considerations. The school district will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel and parents. Food items should be based upon the Healthy Kids Act (HKA) Calculator.

If eligible, schools that provide snacks through after-school programs will pursue receiving reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program.

Rewards

The school district will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually, as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations

Schools should evaluate their celebrations practices that involve food during the school day. The school district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

School-Sponsored Events

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day are encouraged to meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually. Food items should be based upon the Healthy Kids Act (HKA) Calculator.

Food Safety

All foods made available on campus adhere to food safety and security guidelines.

- All foods made available on campus comply with the state and local food safety and sanitation regulations. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines are implemented to prevent food illness in schools.
http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/servingsafe_chapter6.pdf

For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations are limited to child nutrition staff and authorized personnel

PLAN FOR MEASURING IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring

The superintendent will ensure compliance with established school district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

In each school:

- The principal will ensure compliance with those policies in the school and will report on the school's compliance to the superintendent; and,
- Food service staff, at the school or school district level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent or principal.

In the school district:

- The school district will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the school district has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the school district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible;
- The Food Service Director will develop a summary report every three years on school district-wide compliance with the school district's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the school district; and,
- The report will be provided to the school board and also distributed to all school wellness committees, parent/teacher organizations, principals and health services personnel in the school district.

Policy Review

To help with the initial development of the school district's wellness policies, each school in the school district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and practices. The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the school district level to identify and prioritize needs.

Assessments will be repeated every **three five** years to help review policy compliance, assess progress and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the school district will review the nutrition and physical activity policies and practices and the provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity. The school district, and individual schools within the school district will, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.