

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Book | Policy Manual |
| Section | 8000 Operations |
| Title | WELLNESS |
| Number | po8510 |
| Status | Active |
| Adopted | April 21, 2014 |
| Last Revised | October 23, 2017 |

8510 - WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the School District as part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students' healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise cannot be accomplished by the schools alone. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition choices to:

- A. promote nutrition education with the objective of improving students' health and reducing childhood obesity;
- B. improve the health and well-being of our children, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits;
- C. promote nutrition guidelines, a healthy eating environment, child nutrition programs, and food safety and security on each school campus with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity;
- D. provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills for specific physical activities, maintain physical fitness, regularly participate in physical activity, and understand the short and long-term benefits of a physically active lifestyle;
- E. promote the health and wellness of students and staff through other school based activities.

Public Involvement

The District Administrator shall obtain the input of District stakeholders, and may include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, educational staff (including physical education teachers), school health professionals, Board members, and other school administrators in the development, implementation, evaluation, and periodic review and update, if necessary, of the wellness policy.

The District Administrator is encouraged to form a wellness committee to carry out this function.

The wellness committee shall be an administrative committee with members recruited and appointed by the District Administrator.

Policy Leadership and Reporting Requirement

The District Administrator will oversee development, implementation, and evaluation of the wellness procedures and is authorized to designate a staff member or members with responsibility to assure that wellness initiatives are followed in the District's schools.

The District Administrator shall conduct reviews of the progress toward school wellness procedures, identify areas for improvement, and recommend revision of procedures as necessary.

The District Administrator or a designee of the wellness committee shall report annually to the Board on the District's wellness programs, including the assessment of the environment in the District, and the areas for improvement, if any, identified. The District Administrator or a designee of the wellness committee shall also report on the status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining goals established in the policy.

The program developed shall include the following items, along with any additional measures deemed appropriate:

- A. identify specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness, with consideration for evidence-based strategies;
- B. develop nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold during the school day, that are consistent with Federal requirements for meal nutrition standards and smart snacks, and restricting marketing efforts to only those items that meet established guidelines;
- C. develop policies pertaining to other food items in the schools, including for classroom parties, birthday snacks, or other food items not for sale, but distributed in the schools;
- D. describes the process and public involvement in the development of the wellness program and initiatives.

Nutrition Education

- A. Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
- B. Nutrition education may be integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.

Nutrition Promotion

School nutrition services shall use the Smarter Lunchroom Self-Assessment Scorecard to determine ways to improve the school meals environment.

Physical Activity

A. Physical Education

1. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
2. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

B. Physical Activity

1. Physical activity shall not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
2. Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day.

Other School-Based Strategies for Wellness

Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.

Additional Strategies for Consideration

- A. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
- B. Administration may limit the number of celebrations involving serving food during the school day.

- C. The schools may use environmentally friendly practices, such as the use of locally grown foods and non-disposable tableware and dishes.

Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well being, and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:

- A. In accordance with Policy 8500, entitled Food Service, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program.
- B. As set forth in Policy 8531, entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, the guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

All foods available on campus during the school day shall comply with the current USDA nutrition guidelines, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as classroom snacks, from vending machines, for classroom parties, or at holiday celebrations.

- C. The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritious value.
- D. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well.

Public Notice

The District Administrator or designee shall be responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall distribute information at the beginning of the school year to families of school children and/or include information in the student handbook and post the wellness policy on the District's website.

Record Retention

The District Administrator shall require that the District retains documentation pertaining to the development, review, evaluation, and update of the policy, including:

- A. copy of the current policy;
- B. documentation pertaining to the most recent assessment of implementation of wellness initiatives identified in the policy;
- C. documentation of efforts to publicize the policy;
- D. documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including identification of the participating and invited stakeholders.

Review of this policy shall occur every three (3) years, by a committee appointed by the Board, consisting of a representative(s) of the Board, the administration, the food service provider, the parents, the students, and the public. The committee shall provide the Board with review of the performance of the programs and any recommended changes to this policy.

Revised 7/20/15
Revised 10/23/17

© Neola 2017

Legal 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.
 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.