



Book	Policy Manual
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8510 - **WELLNESS**

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the District.

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.

The Board, however, believes this effort to support the students' development of 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 habits:

A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:

1. Nutrition education shall be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
2. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
3. Nutrition education shall include enjoyable, developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and others.
4. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
5. Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide, will be displayed in the cafeteria.
6. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school by engaging and involving families and the community.
7. Nutrition education benchmarks and standards include a focus on media literacy as it relates to food marketing strategies.
8. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks promote the benefits of a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, and low-fat and fat-free dairy products.
9. The District shall provide information to parents that is designed to encourage them to reinforce at home the standards and benchmarks being taught in the classroom.

B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:

1. Physical Education

- a. All students in grades K - 6, including those with disabilities, special health care needs and in alternative educational settings (to the extent consistent with the students' IEPs), shall receive instruction in physical education for thirty (30) minutes two (2) days per week for the entire school year.
- b. All students, including those with disabilities, special health care needs and in alternative educational settings (to the extent consistent with the students' IEPs), shall receive instruction in physical education for 200 minutes five (5) days per week for at least one (1) semesters in grades 7-12.
- c. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
- d. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- e. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- f. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, or harassment of any kind.
- g. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.

2. Physical Activity

- a. Physical activity should not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
- b. The school shall provide information to families to encourage and assist them in their efforts to incorporate physical activity into their children's daily lives.
- c. All students in grades K - 12 shall have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and intramural programs that emphasize physical activity.

C. With regard to other school-based activities:

Free drinking water shall be available to students during designated meal times and may be available throughout the school day.

1. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
2. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
3. Activities, such as tutoring or club meetings, shall not be scheduled during mealtimes, unless students may eat during those meetings.
4. Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to, and be encouraged to use, the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.
5. The schools may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
6. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.

D. With regard to nutrition promotion, any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus, during the school day, will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Additionally, the District shall:

1. encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day;

2. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods that comply with the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards:

- a. a variety of fresh produce to include those prepared without added fats, sugars, refined sugars, and sodium;
- b. a variety of vegetables daily to include specific subgroups as defined by dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy;
- c. whole grain products – half of all grains need to be whole grain-rich upon initial implementation and all grains must be whole grain-rich within two (2) years of implementation;
- d. fluid milk that is fat-free (unflavored and flavored) and low-fat (unflavored);
- e. meals designed to meet specific calorie ranges for age/grade groups;
- f. eliminate trans-fat from school meals;
- g. require students to select a fruit or vegetable as part of a complete reimbursable meal;

All foods and beverages sold to students as fund-raisers outside of the school meals program during the regular and extended school day for consumption on the school campus shall meet the USDA Competitive Food regulations, the Alliance for A Healthier Generation's Competitive Foods and Beverages Guidelines, and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

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, including but not limited to the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, 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).
- C. The sale of foods of minimal nutritional value in the food service area during the lunch period is prohibited.
- D. The sale of foods and beverages to students that do not meet the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards to be consumed on the school campus during the school day is prohibited.
- E. All food items and beverages available for sale to students for consumption on the school campus (any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that is accessible to students during the school day) between midnight and thirty (30) minutes after the close of the regular school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including, but not limited to, competitive foods that are available to students a la carte or as entrees in the dining area (except entree items that were offered on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) menu on the day of and the day after they are offered on the NSLP or SBP menu), as well as food items and beverages from vending machines, from school stores, or as fund-raisers, including those operated by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs.
- F. All foods offered on the school campus during the school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as classroom snacks, or from vending machines.
- G. All food and beverages that are provided, other than through sale, on the school campus during the school day (which may include for classroom parties and at holiday celebrations) shall comply with the food and beverage standards approved by the Principal.
- H. 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 regardless of unpaid meal balances and without stigma.
- I. The food service program shall be administered by a qualified nutrition professional.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual(s) charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the District's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

