

533 WELLNESS

[Note: All education districts that participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Act) to have a wellness policy that includes standards and nutrition guidelines for foods and beverages made available to students on campus during the school day, as well as specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other education district-based activities that promote student wellness. The Act requires the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the education district board, education district administrators, and the public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The Act also requires a plan for measuring implementation of the policy and reporting wellness policy content and implementation issues to the public, as well as the designation of at least one person charged with responsibility for the implementation and oversight of the wellness policy to ensure the education district is in compliance with the policy.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth methods that promote student wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and assure that school meals and other food and beverages sold and otherwise made available on the education district campus during the school day are consistent with applicable minimum local, state, and federal standards.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The education district board recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other education district-based activities that promote student wellness are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and learning.
- B. The education district environment should promote students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
- C. The education district encourages the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the education district food authority, teachers, education district health professionals, the education district board, education district administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the education district's wellness policy.
- D. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.

- E. All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- F. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

III. WELLNESS GOALS

[Note: The Act requires that wellness policies include goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other education district-based activities that promote student wellness.]

A. Nutrition Promotion and Education

- 1. The education district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is:
 - a. offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
 - b. part of health education classes, as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and
 - c. enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and field trips.
- 2. The education district will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable education district meal programs, such as through a la carte/snack lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.

B. Physical Activity

- 1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health and physical education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- 2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and

3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

C. Communications with Parents

1. The education district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary role in promoting their children's health and well-being.
2. The education district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
3. The education district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.
4. The education district will provide information about physical education and other education district -based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

IV. **STANDARDS AND NUTRITION GUIDELINES**

[Note: The Act requires that education districts have standards, selected by the education district, for all foods available on the education district campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. For foods and beverages sold to students during the school day on education district campus, the Act requires that education districts also have nutrition guidelines.]

A. Education district Meals

[Note: The Act specifically requires that the wellness policy contain standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day that are consistent with the meal requirements for lunches and after-school snacks set forth in 7 C.F.R. § 210.10 and the meal requirements for breakfasts set forth in 7 C.F.R. § 220.8.]

1. The education district will provide healthy and safe education district meal programs that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.
2. Food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.
3. Food service personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning.

4. Food service personnel will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
5. Food service personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meets or exceeds all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations and that reimbursable education district meals meet USDA nutrition standards.
6. Food service personnel shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
7. The education 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 education district meals.
8. The education district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
9. The education district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for education district meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the education district day.
10. The education district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes unless students may eat during such activities.

B. Education district Food Service Program/Personnel

1. The education district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the education district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.
2. As part of the education district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the education district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in education districts.

C. Competitive Foods and Beverages

1. All foods and beverages sold on education district grounds to students, outside of reimbursable meals, are considered "competitive foods." Competitive foods include items sold a la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, education district stores, and for in-education district fundraisers.

2. All competitive foods will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School (Smart Snacks) nutrition standards and any applicable state nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits.
3. Before and Aftercare (child care) programs must also comply with the education district's nutrition standards unless they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in which case they must comply with all applicable USDA standards.

D. Other Foods and Beverages Made Available to Students

1. Student wellness will be a consideration for all foods offered, but not sold, to students on the education district campus, including those foods provided through:
 - a. Celebrations and parties. The education district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.

[Note: Healthy party ideas are available from the USDA.]

- b. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The education district will provide to parents a list of suggested foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.
2. Rewards and incentives. Education districts will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior (unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan or behavior intervention plan) and will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.
3. Fundraising. The education district will make available to parents and teachers a list of suggested healthy fundraising ideas.

E. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

1. Education district-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.
2. Education districts will restrict food and beverages marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

V. WELLNESS LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A. Wellness Coordinator

[Note: The Act requires that local education district wellness policies identify the position of the local education agency or education district official(s) responsible for the implementation and oversight of the local education district wellness policy.]

1. The executive director will designate a education district official to oversee the education district's wellness-related activities (Wellness Coordinator). The Wellness Coordinator will ensure that each education district implements the policy.
2. The assistant director/principal of each education district , or a designated education district official, will ensure compliance within the education district and will report to the Wellness Coordinator regarding compliance matters upon request.

B. Public Involvement

[Note: The Act requires a description of the manner in which parents, students, representatives of the education district food authority, teachers of physical education, education district health professionals, the education district board, education district administrators, and the general public are provided an opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the local education district wellness policy.]

1. The Wellness Coordinator will permit parents, students, representatives of the education district food authority, teachers of physical education, education district health professionals, the education district board, education district administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy.
2. The Wellness Coordinator will hold meetings, from time to time, for the purpose of discussing the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the education district's website and will be open to the public.

VI. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

A. Implementation and Publication

[Note: The Act requires a description of the plan for measuring the implementation of the local education district wellness policy.]

1. After approval by the education district board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the education district.

2. The education district will post its wellness policy on its website, to the extent it maintains a website.

[Note: Per Minn. Stat. § 121A.215, when available, a education district must post its current local education district wellness policy on its website.]

B. Annual Reporting

[Note: The Act requires that education districts inform the public about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public on an annual basis.]

The Wellness Coordinator will annually inform the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public.

C. Triennial Assessment

[Note: The Act requires a triennial assessment of education district s' compliance with the wellness policy. The Act also requires education districts to inform the public about progress toward meeting the goals of the wellness policy by making the triennial assessment available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner.]

1. At least once every three years, the education district will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and create a report that includes the following information:
 - a. the extent to which education districts under the jurisdiction of the education district are in compliance with the wellness policy;
 - b. the extent to which the education district's wellness policy compares to model local wellness policies; and
 - c. a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the education district's wellness policy.
2. The Wellness Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the triennial assessment.
3. The triennial assessment report shall be posted on the education district's website or otherwise made available to the public.

D. Recordkeeping

[Note: The Act requires education districts to retain records to document compliance with the requirements of 7 C.F.R. § 210.30.]

The education district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. The records to be retained include, but are not limited to:

1. The education district's written wellness policy.
2. Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local education district wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public.
3. Documentation of the triennial assessment of the local education district wellness policy for each education district under the education district's jurisdiction efforts to review and update the wellness policy (including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the education district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the Wellness Committee).

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.215 (Local School District Wellness Policy)
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Local School Wellness Policy)
42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)
7 U.S.C. § 5341 (Establishment of Dietary Guidelines)
7 C.F.R. § 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)
7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)

Local Resources: Minnesota Department of Education, www.education.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health, www.health.state.mn.us
County Health Departments
Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, www.actionforhealthykids.org
United States Department of Agriculture, www.fns.usda.gov