

533 Wellness Policy - 2017

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

General Statement of Policy

- A.** The school board recognizes that nutrition education and physical education are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and education.
- B.** The school environment should promote and protect students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
- C.** The school district encourages the involvement of students, parents, teachers, food service staff, and other interested persons in implementing, monitoring, and reviewing school district nutrition and physical activity policies.
- 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 setting and adequate time for students to eat.

GUIDELINES

A. Foods and beverages

All foods and beverages made available on campus (including concessions, vending machines, and a la carte cafeteria items) will be consistent with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans. And the availability of healthy classroom snacks will be encouraged.

Food Service personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet or exceed all federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.

Food Service personnel shall adhere to all federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.

The Food Service personnel will have nutrition information on all items sold in the school building on file in the school's Food Service office.

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 –priced school meals.

The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.

The school district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.

The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.

B. School Food Service Program / Personnel

The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that strictly comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulation.

The school district shall designate the Food Service Director as the appropriate person to be responsible for the school district's food service program. The duties of the Food Service Director 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 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

As part of the school districts responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.

C. Nutrition Education and Promotion

The school 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.

The school district will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal

programs, such as through a la carte lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands.

D. Physical Activity

Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities such as watching television.

Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate and classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Students have access to open gym after lunch each day where they are allowed to participate in physical activities. Example of these activities would be walking, jumping rope, playing basketball, **hacky sack** etc.

Students will be encouraged to participate in the Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope Heart. During the 2016-17 school year 65 students took part in this activity in February.

The school participated in the annual Walk To School Day in the fall of 2016 as well as the walk a thon. Over 100 students took part in both of these activities.

High school student have the opportunity to utilize the school's weight room before school from 6:30 to 8:00 and after school from 3:30 – 4:30. The weight room is supervised by school staff. The number of students grades 7 – 12 that are taking advantage of this opportunity range from 4 to 20.

Elementary Students participate each year in an afternoon of track and field events. Each student K-6 is registered to do at least one activity. The 3-6 grade students register for 3 activities. The events range from running, jumping rope, tossing, sit-ups, push-ups, long-jump, high jump, tug of war, to shoe kick.

E. Communications with Parents

The school district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary and fundamental role in promoting and protecting their children's health and well-being.

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

The school district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.

The school district will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. This information will be posted on the school's website

The school district will hold a general meeting to discuss the Wellness Policy on a quarterly basis.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

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

School food service staff, at the school will ensure compliance within the school's food service areas and will report to the food service director and the building superintendent's designee, as appropriate.

The school district's food service director will report to the superintendent setting forth the nutrition guidelines and procedures for selection of all foods made available on campus.

The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with the wellness policy and will provide an annual report of the school district's compliance with the policy to the school board.

Legal References: 42 U.S.C 1751 et seq. (Richard B. Russell national School Lunch Act)
42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq. (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)
P.L. 108-265 (2004) 204 (Local Wellness Policy)
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 and
www.actionforhealthykids.org/filelib/toolsforteachers/recom/MN-Healthy%20Foods%20for%20Kids%208-2004.pdf

Committee members:

Jeff Drake – Superintendent, Elizabeth Klintworth – parent, Steve Bradsteen- Physical Education/Health, Dan Peterka, Physical Education, Nancy Johnson- Food Service. Karen Button – community member, Wendy Molstad – parent. Karen Combs – Community member, Sue Roche – Community Member, Susan Walsh – Food Service, Sue Taylor – Food Service.