

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

Policy Title: WELLNESS POLICY

Policy Code No. 504.11

---

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 education, 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. Foods should be served with consideration toward nutritional integrity, variety, appeal, taste, safety and packaging to ensure high-quality meals. *See the DE guidance on Healthy Kids Act, <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/healthy-kids-act>*

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 utilizes electronic identification and payment systems; provides meals to all children, regardless of income; promotes the availability of meals to all students.

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 evaluate 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.

## **Specific Wellness Goals:**

### **1. Nutrition Education**

The school district will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion K-12 that:

- Includes enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens, and nutrition-related community services
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods and health-enhancing nutrition practices linking with the school district meal program
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and physical activity

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

- Nutrition Education Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks will be developed and documented by June, 2018. Progress toward the long-term goal of 36 hours per year of nutrition education for each student will be a point of emphasis.

## 2. **Physical Activity**

The school district will provide physical education that:

- Is offered to all students in grades K-12 for the entire school year.
- Is taught by a certified physical education instructor.
- Engages students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50 percent of physical education class time.
- Accommodates class sizes that are equal to a typical academic class size.
- Includes meaningful content and accommodations for all students with disabilities.
- Has well-designed lessons that align with established standards and benchmarks at each grade level.
- Includes the assessment of student fitness with the Fitnessgram and Presidential Fitness Program tests. Results will be shared.
- Follows the description of grading student proficiency included in the Physical Education Content Book.
- Physical activity will not be used for or withheld as a consequence or punishment.
- The school district will develop a plan for progress toward meeting the Center for Disease Control recommendations of 150 minutes per week of physical education for students in grades K- 6 and 225 minutes per week for students in grades 7-12. This plan will be developed by the year 2018.

## 3. **Daily Recess**

Elementary schools should provide recess for students that:

- Is at least 20 minutes a day;
- Is preferably outdoors;
- Encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment; and,
- Discourages extended periods (i.e., periods of two or more hours) of inactivity.

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

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.

## 4. **Physical Activity Opportunities After School**

Information about physical activity programs in the community will be distributed in the schools.

## 5. **Integrating Physical Activity into Classroom Settings**

For students to receive the nationally recommended amount of daily physical activity and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond the physical education class. Toward that end, the school district will:

- offer classroom health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities;
- discourage sedentary activities, such as watching television, playing computer games, etc.;
- provide opportunities for physical activity to be incorporated into other subject lessons; and,
- encourage classroom teachers to provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

## 6. **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:

- offer healthy eating seminars for parents, send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school web sites and provide nutrient analyses of school menus;
- encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the established nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages;
- provide parents a list of foods that meet the school district's snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards and fundraising activities;
- provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community;
- provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during and after the school day;
- support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school; and,

## Series 500 – Student Personnel

- include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a web site, newsletter, other take-home materials, special events or physical education homework.

### 7. Food Marketing in Schools

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

- limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually;
- prohibit school-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages;
- promote healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products; and
- market activities that promote healthful behaviors (and are therefore allowable) including: vending machine covers promoting water; pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines; sales of fruit for fundraisers; and coupons for discount gym memberships.

**Examples:** Marketing techniques include the following: logos and brand names on/in vending machines, books or curricula, textbook covers, school supplies, scoreboards, school structures, and sports equipment; educational incentive programs that provide food as a reward; programs that provide schools with supplies when families buy low-nutrition food products; in-school television, such as Channel One; free samples or coupons; and food sales through fundraising activities.

### 8. 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 by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The school district will:

- Maintain a staff wellness council composed of at least one staff member from each building, local hospital representative, dietitian or other health professional, recreation program representative, union representative and employee benefits specialist;
- Develop, promote and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness developed by the staff 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:  
The school district will follow the established nutritional guidelines listed below for all foods available with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity in the school district. Progress toward the long-term district goal of nutritional foods being offered outside school meals will be studied. Balance and moderation will be emphasized.

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

## 9. School 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 all local, state, and federal nutrition requirements and not be restricted beyond those mandates.
- Include a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- Serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally equivalent non-dairy alternatives (as defined by the USDA)

Schools should:

- Engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys, in selecting foods offered through the meal programs in order to identify new, healthful and appealing food choices; and
- Share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. The information could be made available on the web site and cafeteria menu boards.

## 10. 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;
- Arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve breakfasts that encourage participation, including breakfast during morning break, to the extent possible;
- Notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program, where available; and,
- Encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials or other means.

## 11. 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 to all children.
- promote the availability of meals to all students.

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

## 12. 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 10:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; should not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
- Will study the schedule of lunch periods following recess periods (in elementary schools);
- Will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and,
- 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).

## 13. 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; and,
- provide staff development programs that include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, nutrition managers and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

## 14. 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.

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

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://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1769&catid=838&Itemid=2545](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1769&catid=838&Itemid=2545)

## 16. 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.

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

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

## 17. 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.

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

## 18. 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.

## 19. 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.

## 20. 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.

## 21. 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](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.

## 22. Summer Meals

Schools in which more than 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals will sponsor the Summer Food Service Program for at least six weeks between the last day of the academic school year and the first day of the following school year, and, preferably, throughout the entire summer vacation.

The Board will monitor and evaluate this policy:

### Monitoring

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

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

## 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 superintendent 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 5 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.

Date of Adoption      06/12/2006

Review Date            01/12/2015

Revision Date         01/12/2015

Legal Ref.:            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 Ref.:            602.12 Physical Education  
602.13 Education  
701 School Food Service Program