

WELLNESS POLICY

The *[insert school district name]* Board of Education is committed to the optimal development of every student. The board believes for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, there needs to be a positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environment at every level, in every setting.

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. In accordance with law and this belief, the board commits to the following:

The school district will identify at least one goal in each of the following areas:

- **Nutrition Education and Promotion:** Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that helps students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors.
- **Physical Activity:** Schools will provide students with age and grade appropriate opportunities to engage in physical activity that meet the Iowa Healthy Kids Act.
- **Other School Based Activities that Promote Wellness:** As appropriate, schools will support students, staff, and parents' efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The following nutritional guidelines for food available on school campuses will be adhered to:

- Meals served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program will be appealing and meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by state and federal law;
- Schools providing access to healthy foods outside the reimbursable meal programs before school, during school and thirty minutes after school shall meet the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards, at a minimum. This includes such items as those sold through a la carte lines, vending machines, student run stores, and fundraising activities;
- Snacks provided to students during the school day without charge (e.g., class parties) will meet standards set by the district in accordance law. The district will provide parents a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards for classroom snacks and celebrations; and
- Schools will only allow marketing and advertising of foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in school nutritional standards on campus during the school day.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall implement and ensure compliance with the policy by:

- Reviewing the policy at least every three years and recommending updates as appropriate for board approval;
- Implementing a process for permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, administrators and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the policy;
- Making the policy and updated assessment of the implementation available to the public (e.g., posting on the website, newsletters, etc). This information shall include the extent to which the schools are in compliance with policy and a description of the progress being made in attaining the goals of the policy; and
- Developing administrative regulations, which shall include specific wellness goals and indicators for measurement of progress consistent with law and district policy.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

NOTE: The Iowa Department of Education has tools and resources available to help districts with progress reports and other aspects of policy implementation and review. Please visit the “School Wellness Policy” section of the Iowa Department of Education’s website, located at: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/school-wellness>.

NOTE: School districts are required by federal law to have at least one wellness goal in each of the goal areas identified in paragraph three of the sample policy. These goal areas include the following: nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. School districts should select goals to include in the regulation (507.9R1) from the options provided in the sample regulation (507.9R1) or identify a district specific goal. Districts must remember the sample policy and sample regulation cannot be adopted in the current format. School boards and administration must make a choice for all text in italicized brackets.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 *et seq.*
42 U.S.C. §§ 1771 *et seq.*
Iowa Code §§ 256.7(29); 256.11(6).
281 I.A.C. 12.5; 58.11.

Cross Reference: 504.5 Student Fund Raising
504.6 Student Activity Program
710 School Food Services

Approved _____

Reviewed _____

Revised _____

WELLNESS REGULATION

To implement the Wellness Policy, the following district specific goals have been established:

Goal 1 – Nutrition Education and Promotion: Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that help students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors. The goal(s) for addressing nutrition education and nutrition promotion include the following *[Select goal(s) from the list below]*:

- *[Provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health];*
- *[Ensure nutrition education and promotion are not only part of health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects];*
- *[Include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens];*
- *[Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy foods];*
- *[Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise)];*
- *[Link with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services];*
- *[Implement evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques];*
- *[Teach media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing];*
- *[Include nutrition education training for teachers and other staff]; and/or*
- *[Insert other district identified goals].*

Goal 2 – Physical Activity: Schools will provide students and staff with age and grade appropriate opportunities to engage in physical activity that meet federal and state guidelines, including the Iowa Healthy Kids Act. The goal(s) for addressing physical activity include the following *[Select goal(s) from the list below]*:

- *[Develop a comprehensive, school-based physical activity program (CSPAP), that includes the following components:*
 - *Physical education, recess;*
 - *Classroom-based physical activity;*
 - *Walk to school; and*
 - *Out of school time activities];*
- *[Promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits];*
- *[Engage students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50 percent of physical education class time];*
- *[Encourage classroom teachers to provide short physical activity breaks (3-5 minutes), as appropriate];*
- *[Encourage teachers to incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into core subject instructions when possible];*
- *[Offer classroom health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle];*
- *[Ensure physical activity is not used for or withheld as a punishment];*

- *[Afford elementary students with recess according to the following:*
 - *At least 20 minutes a day;*
 - *Outdoors as weather and time permits;*
 - *Encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity; and*
- *Scheduled to avoid extended periods of inactivity (i.e., periods of two or more hours)]. and/or*
- *[Insert other district identified goals].*

Goal 3 – Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness: Schools will support student, staff, and parents’ efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle, as appropriate. The goal(s) for addressing other school-based activities that promote student wellness include the following *[Select goal(s) from the list below]:*

- *[Provide parents a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards for classroom snacks and celebrations];*
- *[Provide school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children. Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment];*
- *[Develop a plan to promote staff health and wellness];*
- *[Engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new school meal items and surveys to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices];*
- *[Share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students];*
- *[Support the consumption of breakfast at school by implementing alternative breakfast options to the extent possible (e.g., grab n’ go, breakfast in the classroom, breakfast after 1st period, etc.)];*
- *[Permit students to bring and carry water bottles filled with water throughout the day];*
- *[Make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes];*
- *[Encourage fundraising efforts held outside school hours to sell only non-food items, promote physical activity, or include foods and beverages that meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards];*
- *[Strive to provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch];*
- *[Discourage students from sharing foods or beverages during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and dietary needs];*
- *[Apply for USDA’s Healthier US School Challenge: Smarter Lunchroom Award, a certification initiative that recognizes schools for nutrition and physical activity excellence]; and/or*
- *[Insert other district identified goals].*

Public Involvement: There is a process for permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, administrators and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the policy *[select a process from the list below].*

- *[The district has a local wellness policy committee to advise the district on the development, implementation, and improvement of the school wellness policy];*
- *[The superintendent or superintendent’s designee invites suggestions or comments concerning the development, implementation, and improvement of the school wellness policy. As such, interested persons are encouraged to contact the superintendent or superintendent’s designee]; or*
- *[Insert other district identified process].*

NOTE: *School districts are required by federal law to have at least one specific wellness goal in each of the goal areas identified above. These goal areas include the following: nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. Options have been provided, but districts must remember the sample policy and sample regulation cannot be adopted in the current format. School boards and administration must make a choice for all text in italicized brackets.*

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