

Instruction**Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Student Wellness Policy)**

Student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, shall be promoted in the district's educational program, school activities, and meal programs. In accordance with federal and state law, it is the policy of the Board of Education to provide students access to healthy foods and beverages; provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity; and require all meals served by the District meet or exceed the federal nutritional guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the "Connecticut Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools," whichever are greater. This policy shall be interpreted consistently with Section 204 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296)

In developing goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness, the District will, as required, review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques.

Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

The goals for addressing nutrition education include the following:

- Schools will support and promote good nutrition for students consistent with applicable federal and state requirements and guidelines.
- Schools will foster the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity, and the capacity of students to develop and learn. Whenever possible, nutrition education will be integrated into subject areas, such as ELA, mathematics, and science, using real-world examples that promote healthy and balanced living.
- Nutrition education will be part of the District's comprehensive standards-based school health education program and curriculum and will be integrated into other classroom content areas, as appropriate. Schools will link nutrition education activities with existing coordinated health programs or other comparable comprehensive school health promotion frameworks. (A standards-based program is a system of instruction, assessment, grading and reporting based on students demonstrating understanding of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn.)

Goals for Physical Activity

The goals for addressing physical activity include the following:

- Schools will support and promote an active lifestyle for students.
- Physical education will be taught in all grades and shall include a standards-based, developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle.

- Unless otherwise exempted, all students will be required to engage in the District's physical education program.
- Recess and other physical activity breaks; before and after school activities, and walking and bicycling to schools, where safe to do so, are supported by the Board.
- Schools will work toward providing opportunities for physical activity throughout the course of the school day (as a best practice).

Nutrition Guidelines for Foods Sold in Schools

Students will be offered and schools will promote nutritious food choices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and My Plate, published jointly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, and guidelines promulgated by the Connecticut Department of Education ("Connecticut Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools") in addition to federal and state statutes and national health organizations.

The focus is on moderating calories, limiting fats, sodium and sugars and increasing consumption of nutrient-rich foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, lean meats and legumes. In addition, in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity, the Superintendent or designee shall establish such administrative procedures to control food and beverage sales that compete with the District's nonprofit food service in compliance with the Child Nutrition Act. The District shall prohibit the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and will ensure that all foods sold to students separately from school meals meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. All beverages sold or served to students on school premises will be healthy choices that meet the requirements of state statute and USDA beverage requirements. (Schools must follow whichever requirements are stricter).

Note: Districts that participate in Connecticut's healthy food certification must follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold in schools instead of USDA's Standards for Competitive Foods. The "Connecticut Nutrition Standards" meet or exceed the USDA's competitive food standards.

All sources of food sales to students at school must comply with the "Connecticut Nutrition Standards for Food in Schools" including, but not limited to, cafeteria a la carte sales, vending machines, school stores and fundraisers. The District shall ensure that all beverages sold to students comply with the requirements of state statute and USDA beverage requirements. The stricter requirements where different between the state and federal regulations must be followed. The District shall ensure compliance with allowable time frames for the sale of competitive foods as specified by state law.

Reimbursable School Meals

Reimbursable school meals served shall meet, at a minimum, the nutrition requirements and regulations for the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Families are provided information regarding the eligibility for obtaining free/reduced price meals through the Stafford Public Schools website, Town of Stafford website, and mailings from the Stafford Public Schools. The privacy of students receiving free/reduced price meals is ensured through the Stafford

Public Schools Food Services Department. Families complete Addendum A granting permission for student status to be shared with outside agencies. Any department wishing to access this information completes a request for information to be formally approved by the Director of Food Services.

Marketing

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. Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. As the District/School Nutrition Services/Athletic Department/PTA/PTO reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the District Wellness Policy.

Monitoring

The Board designates the Superintendent or their designee to ensure compliance with this policy and its administrative regulations. The Superintendent or their designee is responsible for retaining all documentation of compliance with this policy and its regulations, including, but not limited to, each school's three-year assessment and evaluation report and this wellness policy and plan. The Superintendent will also be responsible for public notification of the three-year assessment and evaluation report, including any updates to this policy made as a result of the Board's three-year assessment and evaluation.

The District shall develop a plan designed to achieve the involvement requirements in the development, implementation, monitoring, and assessment of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide periodic implementation data and/or reports to the Board concerning this policy's implementation sufficient to allow the Board to monitor and adjust the policy. The District, as required, will retain records and documents pertaining to the wellness policy which shall include the written school wellness policy, documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, documentation of the triennial assessment of the wellness policy and documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirement.

Community Input

The Superintendent or designee will provide opportunities, suggestions and comments concerning the development, implementation, periodic review and improvement of the school wellness policy from community members, including parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, members of the Board of Education, school administrators, and the public. This is best achieved through the establishment of a standing wellness committee, with membership as listed above. Efforts shall be made to improve community involvement.

Evaluation of Wellness Policy

In an effort to measure the implementation of this policy, the Board of Education designates the Superintendent, or his/her designee, as the person who will be responsible for ensuring that each school meets the goals outlined in this policy. To ensure continuing progress, the District will evaluate implementation efforts and their impact on students and staff at least every three years.

The District will make available to the public the results of the three-year assessment and evaluation including the extent to which the schools are in compliance with policy and a description of the progress being made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The District Wellness Policy shall be made available annually, at a minimum, to students and families by means of school registration, student handbooks and the Board's website. This availability shall include the policy, including any updates to and about the wellness policy and the Triennial Assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals of this policy. In addition, the annual notification shall include a description of each school's progress in meeting the wellness policy goals; summary of each school's wellness events or activities; contact information for the leader(s) of the wellness policy team; and information on how individuals and the public can get involved.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-16b Prescribed courses of study.

10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and the feeding programs for public school children and employees.

10-215a Non public school participation in feeding program.

10-215b Duties of state board of education re: feeding programs.

10-216 Payment of expenses.

10-215e Nutrition standards for food that is not part of lunch or breakfast program.

10-215f Certification that food meets nutrition standards.

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

10-221o Lunch periods. Recess.

10-221p Boards to make available for purchase nutritious, low-fat foods.

10-221q Sale of beverages.

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

10-215b-1 State board of education regulation. Competitive foods.

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program; Competitive Foods. (7 CFR Parts 210 and 220, Federal Register, Vol. 45, No. 20, Tuesday, January 29, 1980, pp. 67586772)

10-215b-23 Income from the sale of food items.

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program; Competitive Food Services. (7 CFR Parts 210.11 and 220.12,)

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265

Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, 7 CFR Parts 210 & 220

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296, 42 U.S.C. 1751

Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (as amended by P.L. 108-269, July 2, 2004)

School Breakfast Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 220 (2006)

National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School (Federal Register, Vol. 78, No. 125, June 28, 2013)

Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium Requirements (Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 238, December 12, 2018)

Local School Wellness Policy Requirements, 42 U.S.C. 1758b

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STAFFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stafford Springs, Connecticut