

533 WELLNESS

I. 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.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school board recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and education.
- B. The school environment should promote 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, guardians, teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators and the general public in development, implementation, authority and period review and update of the school 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 nutritious and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students, at no cost, 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. GOALS

A. Physical Activity

- 1. Through district curriculum district 917 will educate students to recognize that physical education is an essential component of the educational process and that good health fosters student achievement.

2. Provide opportunities to strengthen the skills and knowledge needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle through the district's physical education and health curricula.
3. 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;
4. Teachers will be encouraged to develop opportunities for physical activity that can be incorporated into subject lessons and are encouraged to provide short, physical activity breaks during class.

B. Nutrition Education and Promotion

1. Through district curriculum district 917 will provide nutrition education that follows national and state standards and focuses on understanding the relationship between personal behavior, individual health and the impact of food choices.
2. Provide nutrition education that is developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant and includes participatory activities that address agriculture and the food system.
3. 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 [snack] lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.
4. Teachers will be encouraged to incorporate nutritional information into subject lessons when appropriate.

IV. NUTRITION GUIDELINES

A. Competitive Foods and Beverages

1. All competitive foods and beverages made available on campus (including concessions and a la carte cafeteria items) 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. The district will not participate in marketing of foods that do not meet the Smart Snacks criteria.
2. 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 as required by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

3. Food service personnel shall adhere to all federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
4. 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 educational benefits. The school district will provide both breakfast and lunch meals including beverages and access to drinking water at no cost through the state Free School Meals Program.
5. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
6. 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.
7. Food will not be used as a reward or punishment for academic performance or behavior. Per the Americans with Disabilities Act, special consideration will be given for students with an Individual Education Plan, 504 accommodation or with special health and dietary requirements.

B. 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 school campus, including those foods provided through:
 - a. Celebrations and parties. The school district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents or guardians and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.
 - b. Classroom snacks brought by parents or guardians. The school district will provide to parents or guardians a list of suggested foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.
2. Rewards and incentives. Schools 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.

C. School Food Service Program/Personnel

1. The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that strictly comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations.
2. The school district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the school 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 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

3. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.
4. Food service personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning.
5. Food service personnel will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
6. Food service personnel will not have access to educational benefit status of any student.
7. 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.

D. Communications with Parents or Guardians

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

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- A. After approval by the school board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school district.
- B. District 917 will maintain a Health and Wellness Committee **with a designated Wellness Coordinator** to support the goals of the Wellness Policy. The committee will compile data reported from schools to assess compliance with the Wellness Policy and report to the superintendent on the progress made by the district in attaining the goals of the Wellness

Policy. They will ensure completion of the Triennial Assessment of the policy every three years and post the assessment on the website when completed.

- C. School food service staff, at the school or district level, will ensure compliance within the school's food service areas and will report to the food service program administrator, the building principal, or the superintendent, as appropriate.
- D. **The Accountant, designated as the school district's food service program administrator and Wellness Coordinator, will ensure compliance with the Wellness Policy and annually inform the community about district progress in attaining the goals of the Wellness Policy.**
- ~~E. 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.* (Healthy and Hungry-Free Kids Act)
- 42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)
- 42 U.S.C. § 175Bb (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