

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 533

Orig. 2005

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2010

## 533 WELLNESS

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects **all** 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 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 **all** 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. **Because all** children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active, **the school district will provide an optimal learning environment whereby** ~~in order to grow, learn, and thrive:~~
  - 1. All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
  - 2. 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~~ **cultural and diverse needs** of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

### III. GUIDELINES

- A. Foods and Beverages
  - 1. All foods and beverages ~~made available~~ **offered** on campus **during the school day** (including concessions, **school stores, vending machines, fundraisers, celebrations and parties**, ~~classroom~~ **snacks brought by staff/ parents/guardians for classroom distribution, rewards and incentives**, and a la carte cafeteria items) will be consistent with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans. **Food distributed during the school day intended for consumption outside of the regular**

***school day through programs such as the backpack program and school food pantries will strive to meet USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.***

***2. 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.***

3. 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.
4. Food service personnel shall adhere to all federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
5. 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 school meals.
6. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
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.
8. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.

***9. Farm to School Program***

***a. Farm to School programs enhance the nutritional and educational experience of school children by providing:***

***1) Nutritious, locally grown food as a part of the school food program; and***

***2) Opportunities for educational experiences in school gardens and/or at community gardens and local farms to learn about the origins of their food and how their food is grown. These experiences serve as an interdisciplinary teaching tool to influence student food choices and lifelong healthy eating habits.***

***b. Farm to School programs provide students with the opportunity to eat healthy, locally grown foods and be exposed to a variety of fresh produce that reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of the student population. The school district will support the development of Farm to School programs to help students eat more nutritious foods and***

***promote healthier lifelong eating patterns; support the local economy and local farmers; and teach students about the origins of their foods and how their food is grown.***

- c. Farm to School Programs will adhere to the recommended USDA Sanitation and Safety guidelines of Traceability of Fresh Produce from local farmers and school gardens. This process includes but is not limited to a review of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Handling Practices (GHPs). Farm to School items served in the Cafeteria, the Child Nutrition Department will maintain traceability records from the source of the product through the serving of the product. This documentation will include information on suppliers including local farms, purchasing records, and the specific source of the product.***

B. 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.

C. Nutrition Education and Promotion

1. 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 **educational experiences**, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and field trips.
2. 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.

3. 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.

D. Physical Activity

1. 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~~;
2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and
3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.
4. ***Schools will strive to limit withholding physical activity and recess as a punishment.***
5. ***Schools will proactively teach and encourage positive recess behavior and indoor active recess throughout the school year.***
6. ***Extended periods (i.e., periods of two or more hours of inactivity) are discouraged. When activities, such as school-wide testing, making necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, students will be given periodic breaks (before, during, and after) during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.***
7. ***The school district will encourage walking and biking to and from school based on age appropriate standards for students living with certain distances of the school.***

E. Communications with Parents

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' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
- ~~3. The school district encourages parents 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' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

- A. After approval by the school board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school district.
- B. 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's designee, as appropriate.
- C. The school district's food service program administrator will provide an annual report to the superintendent setting forth the nutrition guidelines and procedures for selection of all foods made available on campus.
- D. ***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 with guidance and support from the District Wellness Committee.***
- E. ***The District will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate this wellness policy. The plan will address specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness, evaluation measures, and engagement of the public.***
- F. The school district will post this wellness policy, ***action plan, and annual reports from the District Wellness Committee*** on its website, to the extent it maintains a website. ***The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued.***

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.215 (Local School District Wellness Policy)  
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Local School Wellness Policy)  
42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)  
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](http://www.education.state.mn.us)  
Minnesota Department of Health, [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)  
St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services

Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org)  
United States Department of Agriculture, [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)

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