



*Second Reading:* August 13, 2015

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

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## **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 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 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. 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 affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try 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. GUIDELINES

#### A. Foods and Beverages

1. Scheduling:
  - a. When possible schools will schedule recess or physical education before lunch in order to increase food consumed, decrease plate waste, and improve cafeteria behavior.
  - b. School sites will provide sufficient time for all students to eat in the school cafeteria and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day. Times to eat will work up to at least 10 minutes for breakfast and 20 minutes for lunch.
  - c. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.
2. Foods and beverages made available on campus during the school day (including a la carte cafeteria items) will be consistent with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
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 ensure that all drinking fountains are sanitary and in working order and that students will have access to drinking water during the school day.

#### 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, 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 or 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.

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.

F. Staff Wellness

1. School staff members serve as role models for students and are the key to successful implementation of student wellness programs. Therefore, the district and schools should offer staff wellness programs as well as general wellness resources and opportunities. This may include workshops and presentations on health promotion, stress management, education and resources that will enhance morale, encourage healthy lifestyles, prevent injury, reduce chronic diseases, and foster exceptional role modeling.

G. Healthy Concessions

1. Concessions sales at school-related events will be supportive of healthy eating and physical activity by emphasizing the sale of healthy foods or non-food items.
2. The superintendent, or designee, and Activities Director- with the assistance of the School Health Council, will create and promote a list of healthy food and non-food items recommended for sale at concessions stands.
3. Groups should strive to have at least 50% of available concessions items be healthy or non-food, and should price those options lower than less healthy foods when possible.

4. A healthy options list will be available as a resource to groups responsible for concession sales.
5. The district will make external organizations using school property aware of the policy regarding fundraising with food and beverage items and will encourage them to adopt the same policy.

#### 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, or designee, 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 a timely report of the school district's compliance with the policy to the school board.
- E. Members of a district wellness committee will work with designated administrative staff to plan, implement and improve the school district's nutrition and physical activity environment.
- F. The school district will post this wellness policy on its website.

**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) County Health Departments 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)