

WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the Eastern Local School District as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

- A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:
 1. Nutrition education shall be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
 2. Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive Health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
 3. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks promote the benefits of a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, and low-fat and fat-free dairy products.
 4. Staff responsible for providing instruction in nutrition education shall regularly participate in professional development activities designed to better enable them to teach the benchmarks and standards.

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5. Instruction related to the standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be provided by highly qualified teachers.
 6. The District shall provide information to parents that is designed to encourage them to reinforce at home the standards and benchmarks being taught in the classroom.
- B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:
1. Physical Education
 - a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
 - b. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
 - c. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
 - d. Planned instruction in physical education shall promote participation in physical activity outside the regular school day.
 - e. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
 - f. Physical education classes shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

- g. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
 - h. The K-12 program shall include instruction in physical education as well as opportunities to participate in competitive and non-competitive team sports to encourage lifelong physical activity.
 - i. Teachers properly certificated/licensed in the subject area of physical education shall provide all instruction in physical education.
 - j. Professional development opportunities should focus on the physical education content area.
 - k. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
 - l. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
 - m. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, bullying or harassment of any kind.
 - n. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.
2. Physical Activity
- 1. Physical activity shall not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
 - 2. Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day.
 - 3. All students in grades 7-12 shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.

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- C. With regard to other school-based activities the District shall:
1. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
 2. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
 3. Activities, such as tutoring or club meetings, shall not be scheduled during mealtimes, unless students may eat during those meetings.
 4. Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to, and be encouraged to use, the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.
 5. An organized wellness program shall be available to all staff.
 6. The schools may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
 7. Schools in our system utilize electronic identification and payment systems, therefore, eliminating any stigma or identification of students eligible to receive free and/or reduced meals.
 8. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.
- D. With regard to nutrition promotion, the District shall:
1. encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day;

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2. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods:
 - a. a variety of fresh produce to include those prepared without added fats, sugars, refined sugars, and sodium;
 - b. a variety of vegetables daily to include specific subgroups as defined by dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy;
 - c. whole grain products – half of all grains need to be whole grain-rich upon initial implementation and all grains must be whole grain-rich within two (2) years of implementation;
 - d. fluid milk that is fat-free (unflavored and flavored) and low-fat (unflavored);
 - e. meals designed to meet specific calorie ranges for age/grade groups;
 - f. eliminate trans-fat from school meals;
 - g. require students to select a fruit or vegetable as part of a complete reimbursable meal;
3. provide opportunities for students to develop the knowledge and skills for consuming healthful foods.

Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well being, and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:

- A. In accordance with Policy 8500, entitled Food Service, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program.
- B. As set forth in Policy 8531, entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, the guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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- C. The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritious value.
- D. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well.
- E. All foods available to students in the dining area during school food service hours shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods available to student a la carte or from vending machines.
- F. The school food service program may involve students, parents, staff, school officials in the selection of competitive food items to be sold in the schools.
- G. The food service program shall be administered by a qualified nutrition professional.
- H. The food service program shall be administered by a director who is properly qualified, certificated, licensed, or credentialed, according to current professional standards.
- I. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- J. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program.

The Board designates the cafeteria supervisor or other designee assigned by the Superintendent with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the District's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

The Superintendent shall appoint a District-wide Wellness Committee that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, educational staff (including physical education teachers), school health professionals, members of the public, and school administrators to oversee development, implementation, evaluation and periodic update of this policy. The Wellness Committee shall be an ad hoc committee with members recruited and appointed annually.

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The Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:

- A. assessment of the current school environment;
- B. review of the District's Wellness policy;
- C. presentation of the Wellness policy to the Board for approval;
- D. measurement of the implementation of the policy; and
- E. recommendation for the revision of the policy, is necessary.

Before the end of each school year, the Wellness Committee shall recommend to the Superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary and/or appropriate.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the Wellness Committee's progress and on its evaluation of the policy's implementation and areas for improvement, including status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining the policy's goals.

The Superintendent is also responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall include information in the student handbook and post the policy on the District's website, including the Wellness Committee's assessment of the policy's implementation.

42 U.S.C. 1751, Sec. 204
42 U.S.C. 1771

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