



Book	WCSD Policy Manual
Section	5000 Students
Title	Wellness
Code	5404
Status	Active
Adopted	January 8, 2024

Given the documented connection between proper nutrition, adequate physical activity and educational success, the Board of Education adopts the following goals and authorizes the following actions to provide District students with a school environment that promotes student health and wellness and reduces childhood obesity.

For purposes of this policy, "school campus" means all areas of district property accessible to students during the school day; "school day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day; and "competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under federal food programs available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day.

I. Foods and Beverages Available to Students on School Campus During the School Day

The Board recognizes that a nutritious, well-balanced, reasonably-portioned diet is essential for student wellness. To help students possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices for a lifetime, the District will ensure that all foods and beverages available in school promote good nutrition, balance, and reasonable portion sizes. The District will ensure that all foods and beverages available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day meet or exceed the program requirements and nutrition standards found in federal regulations.

To accomplish this, the Board directs that the District serve healthy and appealing foods and beverages at district schools, following state and federal nutrition guidelines, as well as safe food preparation methods. In addition, in order to promote health food and beverage choices, the District will consider implementing the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:

- Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
- Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
- Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
- All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
- Daily vegetable options are bundled into all "grab-and-go" meals available to students.
- All staff members have been trained to prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
- White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
- Alternative entree options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
- A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
- Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
- Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
- Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.

A. School Meals – the District will:

1. Post menus on the District website or individual school websites, and such menus shall include nutrient content and ingredients.

2. Include fruits, vegetables, salads, whole grains, and low fat items at least to the extent required by federal regulations.
3. Encourage students to try new or unfamiliar items.
4. Make efforts to ensure that families are aware of need-based programs for free or reduced-price meals and encourage eligible families to apply.
5. Consider serving produce and food from local farms and suppliers.
6. Make free drinking water available at locations where meals are served.
7. Accommodate students with special dietary needs.

B. Meal Scheduling – the District will:

1. Provide adequate time to eat.
2. Schedule lunchtime between normal lunch hours (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

C. Foods and Beverages Sold Individually (e.g., a la carte, vending machines, school stores) – the District will:

1. Ensure that all such items meet the nutrition standards set in federal regulations for competitive foods regarding whole grains, fruits, vegetables, calories, fat, saturated fats, trans fats, sugar, sodium, and caffeine.
2. Permit the sale of fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables, if processed pursuant to federal regulations, as exempt from the nutrition standards.
3. Work with existing vendors or locate new vendors that will comply with nutrition standards.

D. Fund-Raising Activities – the District will:

1. Ensure that all fundraisers selling food or beverages to students on school campus during the school day meet the competitive foods nutrition standards set in federal regulations for whole grains, fruits, vegetables, calories, fat, saturated fats, trans fats, sugar, sodium, and caffeine.
2. Promote non-food items to sell, or activities (physical or otherwise) in which to participate.
3. Student groups conducting fundraisers which take place off the school campus or outside the school day must obey this policy.
4. Outside organizations (e.g., Parent groups, booster clubs) conducting fundraisers which take place off the school campus or outside the school day are encouraged to follow this policy.

E. School and Class Parties, Celebrations, and Events where food and beverages are provided, but not sold – the District will:

1. This section applies to all school and classroom parties, snacks which have been brought in for the class or school, celebrations, food provided to learn about cultures or countries, and other events where food is provided but not sold.
2. Schools will set guidelines for the frequency and content of classroom and school-wide celebrations where food and beverages are provided.
3. The District will promote the use of food and beverage items which meet the standards for competitive foods and beverages, promote non-food activities, and discourage foods and beverages which do not meet those standards, at celebrations.
4. Model the healthy use of food as a natural part of celebrations.

F. Marketing of Foods and Beverages

1. Any food or beverage that is marketed on school grounds during the school day must meet at least the federal nutrition standards for competitive items.
2. This restriction applies to all school buildings (interior and exterior), school grounds, school buses and other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields, structures, parking lots, school publications, and items such as vending machines, equipment, posters, garbage cans, or cups.
3. Marketing includes all advertising and promotions: verbal, written, or graphic, or promotional items.
4. This restriction does not apply to personal opinions or expression, or items used for educational purposes.
5. This restriction applies to all purchases and contracts made after the effective date of this provision.

II. Physical Activity

Physical activity is an important factor in staying healthy and being ready to learn. The Board encourages every student to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities, to regularly participate in physical activity, and to appreciate and enjoy physical activity as an ongoing part of a healthy lifestyle. In addition, staff, families, and community are encouraged to participate in and model physical activity as a valuable part of daily life. The District's Physical Education program will adhere to the curricular requirements of the Commissioner of Education and the New York State Learning Standards.

A. Physical Education

1. Students will engage in physical education, in accordance with and to the greatest extent possible, for the minimum number of hours or days per week under State requirements.
2. Physical Education classes will incorporate the appropriate NYS Learning Standards.
3. Promote, teach and provide opportunities to practice activities that students enjoy and can pursue throughout their lives (e.g., yoga, fitness walking, step aerobics).

4. The performance or withholding of physical activity will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

B. Recess

1. Maintain daily allotment of recess time for elementary school.
2. Recess will not be used for punishment or reward.
3. Permit scheduling recess before lunch.
4. Recess will be held outdoors whenever possible, and indoors during the most inclement weather, at the discretion of the Building Principal.

C. Physical Activity in the Classroom

1. Promote the integration of physical activity in the classroom, both as activity breaks and as part of the educational process (e.g., kinesthetic learning).
2. If the District is under severe time or space constraints, consider meeting the state requirements for Physical Education through collaborative and integrative in-classroom activity, under the supervision of a Physical Education teacher.

D. Extracurricular Opportunities for Physical Activity

1. Promote clubs and activities that meet the various physical activity needs, interests, and abilities of all students (e.g., walking, hiking and climbing, snowshoeing), including before and after school activities.
2. Promote students walking/biking to school (with proper storage of bicycles), safe routes to school, and "walking" school buses.
3. The setting of extracurricular activity eligibility participation requirements does not constitute withholding opportunities.

III. Nutrition Promotion and Education

The Board believes that nutrition promotion and education is a key component in introducing and reinforcing healthy behaviors in students. Nutrition promotion and education that teaches the knowledge, skills, and values needed to adopt healthy eating behaviors shall be integrated into the curriculum. Nutrition promotion and education information will be offered throughout the school campus including, but not limited to, school dining areas and classrooms. Staff members who provide nutrition promotion and education shall be appropriately certified and trained. The District's broader Health Education program will incorporate the appropriate New York State Learning Standards.

The Board's goals for nutrition promotion and education include that the District will:

1. Include nutrition education as part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects.
2. Include enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens.
3. Promote fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low fat dairy products, safe and healthy food preparation methods, and health enhancing nutrition practices.
4. Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure.
5. Teach media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing.

IV. Other School-Based Activities

The District may implement other appropriate programs that help create a school environment that conveys consistent wellness messages and is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, health forums or fairs, health newsletters, parent outreach, employee health and wellness activities, limiting the use of food as a reward, reviewing food marketing and advertising in school, hosting or promoting community-wide events, and offering wellness-related courses in the District's adult education program.

In addition, information regarding Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted and shared with students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.

V. Implementation

The Board designates the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Development as District Wellness Coordinator responsible for ensuring that the provisions of this policy are carried out throughout the District. The Board may also designate one person in each building as School Wellness Coordinator to ensure that the wellness activities and actions are being implemented at the building level. Building level coordinators are responsible for producing quarterly reports that contain the following information:

- a. the number of classroom/school celebrations including notation of meeting menu requirements and if physical activity was incorporated into the celebration;
- b. verification of compliance of vending machines to wellness policy;
- c. the number of fundraisers and verification of compliance with wellness policy.

VI. Monitoring and Review

The Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Development as District Wellness Coordinator will report every three years to the Board and the public on the implementation and effectiveness of this policy. Every three years, the District Wellness Coordinator, in consultation with appropriate personnel and advisory committees, will monitor and review the District's wellness activities to determine the extent that district schools are complying with this policy, how this policy compares to model wellness policies, and the progress made toward attaining the goals of this policy and whether this policy is having a positive effect on increasing student wellness and decreasing childhood obesity in the district. Based on those results, this policy, and the specific objectives set to meet its goals, may be revised as needed.

Parents, students, food service professionals, physical education teachers, school health professionals, school administrators, the general public, and the school board will be provided with the opportunity to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of this wellness policy. To do this, the District will: establish the Wellness Committee, and invite participation via email and announcements; the District website; and outreach to school-associated organizations interested persons and those with valuable expertise.

The District will inform and update the public (including parents, students and others in the community) about the content and implementation of this wellness policy by: posting this policy (and any updates) on the district Wellness Committee website and in BoardDocs, referencing the policy and its availability on school publications and notices, and providing information about new and ongoing wellness policy activities to parents, staff, and students via established communication channels.

The building-level School Wellness Coordinators will monitor and review the implementation and effectiveness of this policy, and provide that information to the District Wellness Coordinator, by conducting:

1. Periodic informal surveys of Building Principals, classroom staff, and school health personnel to assess the progress of wellness activities and their effects.
2. Periodic checks of the nutritional content of food offered in the cafeterias for meals and a la carte items, and sales or consumption figures for such foods.
3. Periodic checks of the nutritional content of food available in vending machines, and sales or consumption figures for such foods.
4. Periodic checks of the amount of time students spend in Physical Education classes, and the nature of those activities.
5. Annual checks of intramural activities of a physical nature, in the number of offerings and rates of participation by students.
6. Annual review of data currently collected by the District, including:
 - a. attendance data, particularly absences due to illness;
 - b. test scores;
 - c. rates of suspension, discipline, and violent incidents;
 - c. physical education scores on flexibility, endurance, and strength (i.e., fitness test results);
7. Annual surveys of student/parent opinions of cafeteria offerings and wellness efforts.
8. Periodic review of professional staff development offered which focuses on student wellness.
9. NYSSBA's Student Wellness Assessment Checklist every three years to review the effectiveness of this policy.

VII. Recordkeeping

The District will keep records as required by federal regulations, including documentation of the following: this policy; the District's community involvement activities described above; that the policy is made available to the public; the assessments done every three years; how the public is informed of the assessment results; and when and how the policy is reviewed and updated.

Ref: P.L. 111-296 (The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010), §204 amending 42 USC §1758b
P.L. 108-265 (Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004), §204
42 USC §§1758(f)(1); 1766(a) (Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act)
42 USC §1779 (Child Nutrition Act)
7 CFR §§210.10; 210.11; 210.12; 210.15; 210.18; 210.30 (National School Lunch Program participation requirements – nutrition standards for lunch and competitive foods; community involvement; recordkeeping; state review; local wellness policy)
7 CFR §§220.8; 220.12 (School Breakfast Program participation requirements – nutrition standards for meals and competitive foods)
8 NYCRR Part 135 (Health and Physical Education curricular requirements); §114.1 (School Breakfast Program Requirements)
Appeal of Phillips, 37 EDR 204 (1997) (dec. no. 13,843) (physical education requirements)
Appeal of Williams, 32 EDR 621 (1993) (dec. no. 12,934) (physical education requirements)