

Health & Wellness Policy

Note: The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (42 USC 1758b) **mandates** each district participating in the National School Lunch Program (42 USC 1751-1769) or any program in the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 USC 1771-1791), including the School Breakfast Program, to adopt a districtwide school wellness policy. The following policy fulfills this mandate and should be revised to reflect district practice. Other policies in the district's policy manual will likely contain additional provisions supporting this wellness policy, such as BP 3312 - Contracts, BP/AR 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program, BP/AR 3552 - Summer Meal Program, BP/AR 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals, BP/AR 3554 - Other Food Sales, BP/AR 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity, and BP/AR 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education.

Although the Governing Board has discretion under 42 USC 1758b to determine specific policies appropriate for its schools, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is required to develop regulations that provide a framework and guidelines to assist districts in establishing their student wellness policies and to provide technical assistance through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently the USDA and CDC provide resources and implementation tools on their web sites. In addition, CSBA's [Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide](#) summarizes research on the relationship between nutrition and physical activity and student achievement, provides worksheets for policy development, and contains other resources that may be useful in the development of the wellness policy.

The following paragraph links student wellness with the components of a coordinated school health approach recommended in the California Department of Education's (CDE) [Health Framework for California Public Schools](#) and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Governing Board recognizes the link between student health and learning and desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for district students. The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and align district efforts to support student wellness through health education, physical education and activity, health services, nutrition services, psychological and counseling services, and a safe and healthy school environment. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for promoting staff wellness and for involving parents/guardians and the community in reinforcing students' understanding and appreciation of the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

School Health Council/Committee

Note: 42 USC 1758b requires that specified stakeholders be permitted to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the district's wellness policy. One method to achieve continuing involvement of those groups and other key stakeholders could be through the creation of a school health council, as recommended in the CDE's [Health Framework for California Public Schools](#). Pursuant to Government Code 54952, committees created by formal action of the Board are subject to open meeting laws (the Brown Act); see AR 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage parents/guardians, students, food service employees, physical education teachers, school health professionals, Board members, school administrators, and members of the public to participate in the development, implementation, periodic review, and update of the district's student wellness policy. (42 USC 1758b)

The Executive Director (Superintendent) of Valiente College Preparatory Charter School may utilize the school's Parent Advisory Council to review health and wellness practices at the school. This may also include the planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities to promote health within the school and community.

Goals for Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Other Wellness Activities:

The district's nutrition education and physical education programs shall be based on research, shall be consistent with the expectations established in the state's curriculum frameworks and content standards, and shall be designed to build the skills and knowledge that all students need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The nutrition education program shall include, but not be limited to, information about the benefits of healthy eating for learning, disease prevention, weight, and oral health. Nutrition education shall be provided as part of the health education program and, as appropriate, shall be integrated into other academic subjects in the regular educational program, before- and after-school programs, summer learning programs, and school garden programs.

To reinforce the district's nutrition education program, the Board prohibits the marketing and advertising of non-nutritious foods and beverages through signage, vending machine fronts, logos, scoreboards, school supplies, advertisements in school publications, coupon or incentive programs, free give-aways, or other means.

All students shall be provided opportunities to be physically active on a regular basis. Opportunities for moderate to vigorous physical activity shall be provided through physical education and recess and may also be provided through school athletic programs, extracurricular programs, before- and after-school programs, summer learning programs, programs encouraging students to walk or bicycle to and from school, in-class physical activity breaks, and other structured and unstructured activities. The Board may enter into a joint use agreement or memorandum of understanding to make district facilities or grounds available for recreational or sports activities outside the school day and/or to use community facilities to expand students' access to opportunity for physical activity.

Professional development shall be regularly offered to health education and physical education teachers, coaches, activity supervisors, food services staff, and other staff as appropriate to enhance their health knowledge and skills.

The Superintendent or designee may disseminate health information and/or the district's student wellness policy to parents/guardians through district or school newsletters, handouts, parent/guardian meetings, district and school web sites, and other communications. Outreach to parents/guardians shall emphasize the relationship between student health and academic performance.

In order to ensure that students have access to comprehensive health services, the district may provide access to health services at or near district schools and/or may provide referrals to community resources. The Board recognizes that a safe, positive school environment is also conducive to students' physical and mental health and thus prohibits bullying and harassment of all students, including bullying on the basis of weight or health condition.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage staff to serve as positive role models for healthy eating and physical fitness. He/she shall promote work-site wellness programs and may provide opportunities for regular physical activity among employees.

For all foods available on each campus during the school day, the district shall adopt nutritional guidelines which are consistent with 42 USC 1773 and 1779 and federal regulations and which support the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

In order to maximize the district's ability to provide nutritious meals and snacks, all district schools shall participate in available federal school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and after-school snack programs, to the extent possible. When approved by the California Department of Education, the district may sponsor a summer meal program.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide access to free, potable water during meal times in the food service area in accordance with Education Code 38086 and 42 USC 1758, and shall encourage students' consumption of water by educating them about the health benefits of water and serving water in an appealing manner.

The Board believes that all foods and beverages sold to students at district schools, including those available outside the district's food services program, should support the health curriculum and promote optimal health. Nutritional standards adopted by the district for foods and beverages provided through student stores, vending machines, or other venues shall meet or exceed state and federal nutritional standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage school organizations to use healthy food items or non-food items for fundraising purposes. He/she also shall encourage school staff to avoid the use of non-nutritious foods as a reward for students' academic performance, accomplishments, or classroom behavior.

School staff shall encourage parents/guardians or other volunteers to support the district's nutrition education program by considering nutritional quality when selecting any snacks which they may donate for occasional class parties. Class parties or celebrations shall be held after the lunch period when possible. Program Implementation and Evaluation The Superintendent shall designate one or more district or school employees, as appropriate, to ensure that each school site complies with this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall assess the implementation and effectiveness of this policy at least once every two years.

The assessment shall include the extent to which district schools are in compliance with this policy, the extent to which this policy compares to model wellness policies available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.

The Board and the Superintendent or designee shall establish indicators that will be used to measure the implementation and effectiveness of the district activities related to student wellness. Such indicators may include, but not be limited to:

1. Descriptions of the district's nutrition education, physical education, and health education curricula and the extent to which they align with state academic content standards and legal requirements

2. An analysis of the nutritional content of school meals and snacks served in all district programs, based on a sample of menus and production records
3. Student participation rates in all school meal and/or snack programs, including the number of students enrolled in the free and reduced-price meals program compared to the number of students eligible for that program
4. Extent to which foods sold on campus outside the food services program, such as through vending machines, student stores, or fundraisers, comply with nutritional standards\
5. Results of the state's physical fitness test at applicable grade levels
6. Number of minutes of physical education offered at each grade span, and the estimated percentage of class time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity
7. A description of district efforts to provide additional opportunities for physical activity outside of the physical education program
8. A description of other districtwide or school-based wellness activities offered, including the number of sites and/or students participating, as appropriate.

The Superintendent or designee shall invite feedback on district and school wellness activities from food service personnel, school administrators, the school health council, parents/guardians, students, teachers, before- and after-school program staff, and/or other appropriate persons.

As feasible, the assessment report may include a comparison of results across multiple years, a comparison of district data with county, statewide, or national data, and/or a comparison of wellness data with other student outcomes such as academic indicators or student discipline rates.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students, and others in the community, about the content and implementation of this policy and assessment results.

In addition, the assessment results shall be submitted to the Board for the purposes of evaluating policy and practice, recognizing accomplishments, and making policy adjustments as needed to focus district resources and efforts on actions that are most likely to make a positive impact on student health and achievement.

Posting Requirements

Each school shall post the district's policies and regulations on nutrition and physical activity in public view within all school cafeterias or in other central eating areas. Each school shall also post a summary of nutrition and physical activity laws and regulations prepared by the California Department of Education.

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