

WELLNESS POLICY

Fairfield Public School District #112

BELIEF STATEMENT

The Board of Education of Fairfield Public School District #112 is committed to providing a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle and recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity and the capacity of students to develop and learn. The entire school environment shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence students' beliefs and habits and promote health and wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity. In addition, school staff shall be encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a total school environment that promotes and supports student health and wellness, helps to reduce childhood obesity and meets the requirements of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and the Illinois School Code, including, without limitation, goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities designed to promote student wellness; nutrition guidelines for all foods available during the school day; a plan for measuring implementation including designating one or more persons charged with operational responsibility; and involving parents, students, school food service providers, the school board, school administrators, and the public in developing this policy.^{2,3}

RATIONALE

A disturbing number of children are inactive and do not eat well. The result is an alarming 16 percent of children and adolescents are overweight – a three-fold increase since 1980.¹ Congress passed the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 on June 30, 2004.² Recognizing the role schools can play in health promotion; this law requires local education agencies participating in a program authorized by the National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to develop a local wellness policy. The objectives of the wellness policy are to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health and reduce childhood obesity. In addition, Public Act 094-0199 amends the Illinois School Code, requiring the Illinois State Board of Education to establish a state goal that all districts have a wellness policy.³

The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being. Healthy eating is demonstrably linked to reduced risk for mortality and development of many chronic diseases. Schools and school communities have a responsibility to help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to establish and maintain lifelong healthy eating patterns. Well-planned and well-implemented wellness programs have been shown to positively influence children's health.

Schools also have a responsibility to help students establish and maintain lifelong habits of being physically active. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, regular physical activity is one of the most important things people can do to maintain and improve their physical health, mental health, and overall well-being. Regular physical activity reduces the risk of premature death in general and of heart disease, high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes.

GOALS FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION

- Staff will be encouraged to model Healthy Eating and Physical Activity as a valuable part of life.
- Students in preschool through grade 8 shall receive nutrition education as part of a sequential program that is coordinated within a comprehensive health education curriculum.⁴ The program shall provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to adopt healthy eating behaviors *and* shall also influence students' knowledge, attitudes and eating habits. Special emphasis is placed on nutrition education in preschool through primary grades as eating habits are established at a young age. The curriculum shall be consistent with and incorporate relevant Illinois Learning Standards.⁵
- Schools shall promote and label healthy food choices so students know which items are healthy. The healthiest choices will be prominently displayed to encourage students to make healthy choices.
- Display and advertising of foods with minimal nutritional value is strongly discouraged on school grounds.
- To maximize classroom time and to achieve positive changes in students' eating behaviors, nutrition education shall be integrated into the standards-based⁴ lesson plans of other school subjects like math, science, language arts, physical education, health, family and consumer science and social sciences.
- To achieve positive changes in students' eating behaviors, it is recommended that a minimum of fifty contact hours of nutrition education opportunities be provided to students each year.⁶ Contact hours may include a combination of classroom instruction and nutrition education provided in the cafeteria.

GOALS FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Students in preschool through grade 8 shall participate in daily physical activities that enables them to achieve and maintain a high level of personal fitness; emphasizes self-management skills including energy balance (calories in minus calories out); is consistent with districts' guidelines; and is coordinated within a comprehensive health education curriculum.⁴ The curriculum shall be consistent with and incorporate relevant Illinois Learning Standards.⁵
- It is recommended that elementary students participate in physical education for a minimum of 150 minutes per week, and middle and high school students participate for 225 minutes per week (National Association for Sport & Physical Education recommendations).⁷ Special emphasis shall be placed on promoting an active lifestyle in preschool through primary grades as health habits are established at a young age. Accommodations shall be made for students with disabilities, 504 plans, and other limitations.

GOALS FOR OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE STUDENT WELLNESS

Parent Partnerships

- Schools shall support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. This support shall begin in elementary school and continue through middle school.
- Parents shall be provided information to help them incorporate healthy eating and physical activity into their student's lives. This information may be provided in the form of handouts, postings on the district website, information provided on school calendars, presentations that focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyles and any other appropriate means available for reaching parents.

Consistent School Activities and Environment – Healthy Eating

- It is recommended that food providers share information about the nutritional content of school meals and/or individually sold foods with students, family and school staff.
- School meals shall be served in clean, safe and pleasant settings with adequate time provided for students to eat, at a minimum, in accordance with state and federal standards and guidelines. The National Association of State Boards of Education recommends that students have adequate time to eat, relax and socialize: at least 10 minutes after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch.⁹
- All food service personnel shall have adequate pre-service training and regularly participate in professional development activities that provide strategies for providing tasty, appealing and healthy school meals; nutrition education strategies including coordination of classroom and cafeteria activities; and effective promotional techniques to encourage healthy eating habits.
- Food providers shall work with suppliers to obtain foods and beverages that meet the nutrition requirements of school meals and nutrition standards for those sold individually.
- Food providers shall work closely with school instructional staff to reinforce nutrition instruction and foster an environment where students can learn about and practice healthy eating.
- Food providers shall take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages on school campuses meets federal, state and local laws and guidelines.
- Students, parents, school staff and community members bringing foods and beverages to school for parties/celebrations/meetings shall be encouraged to provide healthful options.
- Schools shall take efforts to promote nutritious food and beverage choices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Food Guidance System (MyPyramid) such as fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy foods and whole grain products.^{8,10}
- Nutrition education shall be provided by trained and well-supported staff with adequate pre-service and in-service training.
- All foods and beverages made available at school shall comply with the federal, state and local food safety and sanitation regulations.
- For the safety and security of food, access to any area involved in storage, preparation or service of food at the schools shall be limited to authorized personnel.

Consistent School Activities and Environment –Physical Activity

- Staff involved in physical education should be provided with opportunities for professional development.
- Physical education shall be provided by trained and well-supported staff. All physical education teachers shall regularly participate in continuing education activities that impart the knowledge and skills needed to effectively promote enjoyable lifelong healthy eating and physical activity among students.
- The physical education program shall be closely coordinated with the other components of the overall school health program. Physical education topics shall be integrated within other curricular areas. In particular, the benefits of being physically active shall be linked with instruction about human growth, development, and physiology in science classes and with instruction about personal health behaviors in health education class.
- Schools are encouraged to limit extended periods of inactivity. When activities such as mandatory testing make it necessary for students to be inactive for long periods of time, it is recommended that schools give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.
- School personnel shall not use physical activity as a punishment, nor deny participation in recess or other physical activity as a form of discipline unless the safety of students is in question.
- Physical activity facilities and equipment on school grounds shall be safe. For physical classes, the school shall staff those classes to provide for student safety and maximize student participation.

- Schools are encouraged to work with the community to create a community environment that is safe and supportive of students walking or biking to school.
- The District is encouraged to promote the use of school facilities outside of school hours for physical activity programs offered by community based organizations.

Food or Physical Activity as a Reward or Punishment

- School personnel shall be encouraged to use nonfood incentives or rewards with students and shall not withhold food from students as punishment. School strongly discourages the use of food/beverages as a reward or punishment. Non-food alternatives should be offered in place of food.
- School personnel shall not use physical activity as a punishment.

NUTRITION GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOODS AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- Students and Staff will have access to free, safe, and fresh drinking water throughout the school day.
- Food providers shall offer a variety of age-appropriate, appealing foods and beverage choices and employ food preparation, purchasing and meal planning practices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans (e.g. provide a variety of fruits and vegetable choices; serve low-fat and fat-free dairy products; ensure that whole grain products are served).
- All foods and beverages sold individually at school during the school day shall meet nutrition standards (Attachment A). This includes:
 - a la carte offerings in the food service program; and
 - foods and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL MEALS

- Schools will offer breakfast through the USDA School Breakfast Program.
- School meals served shall be consistent with the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and/or shall meet, at a minimum, the nutrition requirements and regulations for the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program and all applicable state and local laws and regulations.^{11,12,13}

MEASURING IMPLEMENTATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The district superintendent shall be charged with the operational responsibility for ensuring that each school meets the local wellness policy requirements.
- The School Improvement Team shall be responsible for:
 - development of a wellness policy;
 - presenting the wellness policy to the school board for approval;
 - measuring the implementation of the wellness policy; and
 - recommending revision of the policy, as necessary.
- The principal at each school shall be responsible for implementation of the local wellness policy.
- Before the end of each school year the School Improvement Team shall recommend to the district superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary.
- The School Improvement Team with the superintendent shall annually review the wellness policy and report to the school board on the effectiveness of the program.

Attachment A

Food or Beverage	<p><i>Healthier US School Challenge Nutrition Standards*</i></p> <p>These criteria focus on decreasing fat and added sugar, increasing nutrient density, and moderating portion size.</p>
Fruits and Non-fried Vegetables	<p>Fruits and vegetables may be fresh, frozen, canned or dried, and they must be found in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs. http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/FBG/2003FBG/%20Section%202.pdf</p> <p>Examples of products that <i>cannot</i> be sold/served as a fruit or vegetable include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snack-type foods made from vegetables or fruits, such as potato chips, and banana chips; • Pickle relish, jam, jelly; and • Tomato catsup and chili sauce
Approved Beverages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flavored or plain reduced fat (2%), low-fat (1%), skim/nonfat fluid milk meeting State and local standards for pasteurized fluid milk and/or USDA approved alternative dairy beverages⁴; • 100% full-strength fruit and vegetable juices; and • Water (non-flavored, non-sweetened, <i>and</i> non-carbonated)
Any Other Individual Food Sales/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calories from total fat must be at or below 35%**, <i>excluding nuts, seeds, and nut butters</i>. This is determined by dividing the calories from total fat by the total calories and multiplying by 100. If calories from fat are not available, multiply the grams of fat by 9 to equal calories from fat. • Calories from saturated fat must be at or below 10%. This is determined by dividing the calories from saturated fat by the total calories and multiplying by 100. If calories from saturated fat are not available, multiply grams of saturated fat by 9 to equal calories from saturated fat. • Total sugar must be at or below 35% by weight. This is determined by dividing the grams of total sugar by the gram weight of the product and multiplying by 100. This includes both naturally occurring and added sugars. This limit does not include fruits and vegetables or flavored milk as defined above. • Portion size for a la carte sales in the school cafeteria are not to exceed the serving size of the food served in the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program; for vending sales the item package or container is not to exceed 200 calories.

⁴ There are no USDA approved alternative dairy beverages at this time. Public Law 108-265 (Child Nutrition Program Reauthorization) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish nutritionally equivalent non-dairy beverages by July 1, 2005. Please check with the Illinois State Board of Education for clarification.

*The above *Nutrition Standards* are criteria for sales/service of a la carte and/or vended items from the United States Department of Agriculture's *HealthierUS School Challenge*. Please be aware that these criteria are only meant to apply to individually sold foods and that foods sold as part of a reimbursable school meal may not necessarily meet these criteria although menus meet the nutrition standards set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for school meals. Local policy makers may wish to modify the standards but should be aware that this may make schools ineligible to meet the criteria for the *HealthierUS School Challenge*.

**The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005* recommend a total fat intake of 20 to 35% for school-age children.

References

1. Prevalence of Overweight among Children and Adolescents: United States, National Center for Health Statistics. www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/overwght99.htm
2. Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 [Public Law 108-265, Sec. 204]. <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss>
3. Public Act 094-0199. www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=094-0199
4. Illinois School Code. www.ilga.gov/legislation
 - a. Daily Physical Ed Requirements - Section 27-6 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-6])
 - b. Rules for Comprehensive Health Education – (23 Ill. Adm. Code 253) issued pursuant to the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act [105 ILCS 110].
5. Illinois Learning Standards, Illinois State Board of Education, 1997. www.isbe.state.il.us/ils
6. Nutrition services: An essential component of comprehensive school health programs – Joint Position of the American Dietetic Association, Society for Nutrition Education, and the American School Food Service Association, *Journal of Nutrition Education* 35:2, 2003.
7. Executive Summary, Shape of the Nation 2001. National Association of Sports and Physical Education (NASPE), 2001. www.aahperd.org/naspe/pdf_files/shape_nation.pdf
8. Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Agriculture, 2005. www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines
9. Fit, Healthy and Ready to Learn, National Association of State Boards of Education, 2000.
10. MyPyramid.gov, United States Department of Agriculture. www.mypyramid.gov
11. Minimum School Meals Requirements – section 9(f)(1), 17(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(f)(1), 1766(a)0
12. Minimum School Meals Requirements - subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 of the Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1779)
13. Illinois School Food Service – Ill. Adm. Code Section 305.