

NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

8225

School Wellness Policy

The Charter School strives to support a school environment that enhances the ability of students to learn and achieve. Since it is well established that health and well-being are key components to a student's ability to learn and achieve¹, this district shall work to provide students with a healthy environment. The goal of the board is to encourage a healthy lifestyle for students by providing nutrition education, promoting healthy food choices, providing opportunities for physical activity, and other school-based wellness activities. The district will engage individuals from the district and community to participate in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing this and other related school wellness policies.

School Wellness Committee

The school wellness committee shall encourage participation from the following stakeholders: school administration, the school board, physical education teachers, school health professionals, food service employees, students, parents, and community members. The committee will be responsible for the development, implementation, review, and update of this school wellness policy.

The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes: School website, school newsletters, enrollment packets, and community flyers.

Wellness Policy Leadership

The Wellness Policy Leadership and Committee Members will be identified in the school handbook.

Guidelines for School Nutrition Programs

The district's school nutrition programs will prepare and serve nutritious, well-balanced, and age-appropriate meals, á la carte foods, snacks, and beverages that comply with current USDA regulations. In order to adhere to these nutrition standards, the school nutrition program will serve a variety of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy products. Water will be available to students at no charge in the place where meals are served during meal service.

The district will either employ, or consult with, registered dietitians to review the menu and ensure that it meets federal guidelines. The Food Service Director shall solicit feedback from students, staff, and parents regarding the offered foods and beverages. Nutritional information such as calories, saturated fat, and sodium content of foods shall be made available in the cafeteria and district website.

Each school will provide adequate time to eat during meal periods, with students having at least

20 minutes per day to consume lunch after exiting the meal line. The SFA strives to discourage schedule tutoring, organizational clubs, meetings, or various other activities during lunch time unless the student(s) may eat during such activities.

The Food Service Director will utilize a full Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plan to ensure food safety practices are implemented and followed.

To the maximum extent practicable, all schools in this district will participate in available federal school meal programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

School meals served through the National School Lunch will meet or exceed nutrition and meal pattern requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations.

Fundraising

All foods sold to students must be tracked and compared to Smart Snack standards. If foods and beverages do not follow the Smart Snacks regulations, the fundraising organization must request an exemption from the appointed district administrator. Per Idaho policy, a district may have ten (10) exempted fundraisers per school year per school site. Fundraisers requiring an exemption may not be longer than four (4) consecutive days in duration and exempt food and beverage items may not be sold in district food service areas during meal service. A designee of the School Wellness Committee will be available to meet with student fundraising organizations to communicate Smart Snacks standards should case-specific questions arise.

The Smart Snacks regulations do not apply to items sold during non-school hours, weekends, off-campus fundraising events, or foods intended to be consumed or prepared outside of school.

All Foods and Beverages Sold in Schools

All foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus will comply with Smart Snack Regulations. This includes food items sold through à la carte lines, vending machines, snack bars, student stores, and fundraising activities. The district will utilize the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Smart Snack Product Calculator to determine product compliance when considering food items to sell to students during the school day. Per USDA, the school day is defined as midnight the night before to 30 min after the end of the instructional day. Food and beverage marketing and advertising will be limited to only those foods and beverages that meet the competitive food requirements and align with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Marketing avenues include those such as posters and flyers, vending machines, food service equipment, and announcements.

Nutrition Standards for Other Foods and Beverages in Schools

Celebrations and Snacks

Classroom celebrations and snacks served during the school day or in after-school programs will strive to emphasize healthy choices, such as fruits and vegetables, as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage.

Schools will determine when to offer snacks based on the schedule for school meals, the nutritional needs of students, student age, and other pertinent factors. Schools that provide reimbursable snacks through after-school programs will follow the federal guidelines for the Afterschool Snack Program.

The school wellness committee will develop a list of recommended healthy snack and beverage items to provide to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents. This list will be utilized when planning classroom snacks, school sponsored parties, social events, and school functions.

Food as Rewards

Teachers, staff, and other school personnel will be discouraged from using food or beverages as a reward for students. The school wellness committee will develop guidelines for appropriate alternative reward system that incorporate social rewards, recognition and praise, privileges, and opportunity for classroom physical activity and recess. Teachers, staff, and other school personnel will be prohibited from withholding food or beverages as punishment.

Nutrition Promotion

The district will encourage students to make healthy food choices using nutrition promotion techniques such as:

1. Encouraging staff to model healthy eating/drinking behaviors
2. Utilizing Smarter Lunchrooms techniques, such as signage and product placement, when appropriate and attainable
3. Sharing nutrient information, such as the monthly menu and corresponding nutrition facts, with students, staff, and parents at the point of service and district website
4. Offering taste-testing and menu planning opportunities to students to teach them about healthy fruits and vegetables options and solicit input on preferences
5. Strategically placing fruits and vegetables in accessible areas on the meal line (i.e., near the cashier or the front of the line)

Nutrition Education

The school board will adopt and implement a comprehensive health and physical education curriculum in line with the Idaho standards for health and physical education. Additional standards-based nutrition education will be offered in each grade as either a stand-alone unit or integrated into other core subjects, such as math, science, language arts, and social sciences.

1. Curriculum will link nutrition education with the school food environment and focus on behavior- focused skills, such as meal planning, recognizing food groups, and reading food labels to evaluate the quality of different foods.
2. Classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, and dining areas will utilize regularly updated nutrition and health posters and signage to educate students on nutrition concepts.
3. Nutrition curriculums will utilize culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate opportunities to apply learning in school-wide activities such as contests, surveys, promotions, food demonstrations and taste-testing, voting for recipe names, cafeteria design or décor challenges, farm visits, and school gardens.
4. Schools shall provide families with materials that allow parents and students to apply health and nutrition lessons at home.

Physical Activity

This district's goal is to provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge, skills, and capacity to be physically active throughout their life. This includes providing opportunities to maintain physical fitness; reduce sedentary time; and develop and enhance social skills and self-esteem for students of all levels of physical ability.

The physical education curriculum will be aligned with state and national standards for physical education and be taught by a certified physical education teacher. Waivers, exemptions, and substitutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A student substituting for physical education must demonstrate proficiency of physical education standards.

In addition to physical education, the district will provide other opportunities for physical activity for each grade by utilizing a comprehensive physical activity program (CSPAP) plan which encompasses:

1. Active transportation to and from school
2. Opportunities for physical activity before and after school, by providing intramural programs, interscholastic sports, competitive and non-competitive clubs with a physical activity emphasis
3. Daily recess for elementary students and classroom-based physical activity breaks

- to increase focus or teach academic content via physical movement for all students
4. Engaging staff, families, and communities to join and support physical activity initiatives
 5. To promote physical fitness for students, parents, and community members, the district may enter into joint or shared-use agreements with governmental entities and community organizations that allow school and/or community-based organizations to use the school facilities for physical activity and recreation programs outside of school hours

Teachers and other school personnel are prohibited from withholding opportunities for physical activity such as recess or physical education as punishment. Physical activities, such as push-ups or running, will not be used as a disciplinary measure as this serves to decrease a student's intrinsic motivation to pursue these activities.

Other School-Based Wellness Activities

District goals regarding other school-based wellness activities will include:

1. Providing professional development related to health, nutrition, and physical activity to all staff
2. Developing and implementing a staff wellness program that encourages school staff to serve as role models to students and practice healthy eating, physical activity, and other healthful activities
3. Developing at least one health-promotion idea per school year to bring to the board (e.g., races or fun runs, family wellness activities, or family day activities that promote health and wellness)
4. Implementing and sustaining a school garden or Farm to School/Farm to Cafeteria activities that promote healthy eating via student participation
5. Evaluating the barriers to implementing Safe Routes to School to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school
6. Initiating and sustaining a recycling/environmental stewardship program
7. Providing students, parents, and staff with mental health resources and prevention program information
8. Applying for state and/or national awards and grants that support a healthy school environment (e.g., the Healthier US School Challenge or Fuel Up to Play 60 grants)

Monitoring

Building principals or a designee will monitor and ensure adherence to the wellness policy in each school and will report rates of compliance to the superintendent or designee. The food

service director will monitor and ensure that the school nutrition program complies with federal and state nutrition and meal pattern guidelines and report such compliance to the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee is responsible for monitoring and ensuring that all schools in the district comply with this policy. Reporting of adherence to the wellness policy shall take place yearly.

Assessment

On a triennial basis, the wellness committee will conduct an assessment and develop a summary report on district-wide compliance with this policy based on input from schools within the district. The assessment and report will include the extent to which schools are in compliance with this policy, the extent to which this district's school wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies, and the progress made in attaining the measurable goals of this policy. The report will be made available to the public at the district office and posted on the district's website, as well as provided to the school board, the school wellness committee(s), parent/teacher organizations, school administrators, and school health services personnel in the district.

To assist with the development of the district's wellness policy, each school in the district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity practices. The results of the school assessments will be compiled at the district level to prioritize needs and determine goals to implement. This information will also be used to measure the school's progress toward achieving its wellness goals.

Notice

The district will include this policy and policy updates in the student handbook and provide each student and parent/guardian with a copy of the student handbook upon enrolling in classes each year. The policy will also be posted on the district website under board policies and the Nutrition Services Homepage.

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| Legal Reference: | 7CFR §210.30 | Local school wellness policy |
| | 42 U.S.C. § 1758b Section 204 | Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of |
| | 2010 (PL 111-296), reauthorizing the | Child Nutrition Act |
| | 42 U.S.C. § 1751, <i>et seq.</i> | National School Lunch Act |
| | 42 U.S.C. § 1771, <i>et seq.</i> | Child Nutrition Act of 1966 |

Policy History:

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Revised on:



ALTURAS
PREPARATORY ACADEMY
EDUCATION | SERVICE | COMMUNITY

2280 E 17TH ST, IDAHO FALLS, ID 83404

APA@ALTURASACADEMY.ORG

WWW.ALTURASPREP.ORG

208.932.9440

References:

1. GenYouth Foundation, National Dairy Council, American College of Sports Medicine, and American School Health Association, comps. *The Wellness Impact: Enhancing Academic Success through Healthy School Environments*. Rep. GenYouth Foundation, 2013. Print.
2. Alliance for a Healthier Generation. "Non-Food Rewards." *Non-Food Rewards*. 2016. Web. 24 Mar. 2016.