



# Local Wellness Policy

# Table of Contents

Preface.....	1
Wellness Policy	
Committee.....	2
Wellness Policy Leadership.....	2
Wellness Policy Committee Members.....	2
Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities.....	3
Public Involvement.....	3
Assessments.....	3
Updates.....	4
Records.....	4
Nutrition.....	5
Nutrition Standards.....	5
Nutrition Education.....	7
Nutrition Promotion.....	8
Marketing.....	9
Physical Activity.....	10
Physical	
Education.....	10
Other Opportunities for Physical	
Activity.....	10
Physical Activity Promotion.....	10
Other School-Based Activities.....	12

# Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

## Wellness Policy Committee

### **Wellness Policy Leadership**

Takisha Anderson, Director of Operation

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### **Wellness Policy Committee Members**

Name, Title of Member #1

Contact: Greg A. Anderson

Name, Title of Member #2

Contact: Tylica Moore

Name, Title of Member #3

Contact:

Name, Title of Member #4

Contact:

Name, Title of Member #5

Contact:

# Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities

## **Public Involvement**

The Local Education Agency permits and encourages public involvement in Local Wellness Policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, the LEA shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in Local Wellness Policy processes. The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes:

- School website, Letters, newsletters

## **Assessments**

Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Liberation Academy shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every 3 at which the district intends to complete Local Wellness Policy assessments] years, beginning in [insert the first year the District completed the assessment requirement set forth under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010] and occurring every 3] years thereafter. These assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy is in compliance with USDA, State, and Local rules and regulations
- Compare the LEA's wellness policy to model wellness policies
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in the LEA's wellness policy

## **Updates**

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate in order to fit the needs and goals of the Local Education Agency. The LEA shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy

Through the following channels:

- School's website, monthly newsletter

## **Records**

The Local Education Agency shall maintain record of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made

to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process

# Nutrition

The Local Education Agency recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the effects of nutrition on the classroom, for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' success, attendance, and behavior.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 18.5 percent of the nation's youth was considered obese in 2015-16. This percentage increased 1.3 percent when compared to the previous year. Conversely, 15.7 percent of American families experienced food hardship in 2017.

Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students to prevent both overconsumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity to give students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

## **Nutrition Standards**

### Meals

*[Nutrition standards for reimbursable meals consistent with Federal guidelines must be included in the content of the Wellness Policy.]*

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. [Districts may need to alter programs included in this statement based on actual participation.] This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (i.e. Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans-fat.

[If your District goes beyond the basic meal requirements, insert a description. Examples include salad bars, serving fresh fruits and vegetables every day (i.e. not serving juice to meet fruit and vegetable component requirements), etc.]

### Competitive Foods

*[Nutrition standards for competitive food and beverage items sold on campus during the school day that are consistent with Federal regulations must be included in the content of the Wellness Policy.]*

All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). This includes, but is not limited to, vending machine and à la carte items.

[If your District goes beyond the basic competitive foods and beverages requirements, insert a description. Examples include not offering any competitive foods and beverages, only offering fruits and vegetables as competitive foods, etc.]

### Other Foods and Beverages

*[Nutrition standards for all food and beverage items provided, but not sold, to students on campus during the school day must be included in the content of the Wellness Policy. LEAs may choose Option A or Option B based on the needs of the applicable organization, or create their own "Other Foods and Beverages" policy as appropriate. It is not a requirement for LEAs to prohibit using food as a reward or as part of a celebration, however, it is considered a best practice and encouraged by the USDA. Additionally, the Final Rule does not require LEAs to apply competitive foods standards to foods and beverages that are provided, but not sold to students. An LEA's policy for "Other Foods and Beverages" can be made at the Local level.]*

- A. The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the use of food as a reward or as part of a celebration. Providing alternatives to food as a reward promotes healthier habits by reducing exposure to less nutritious food items and, therefore, the amount of calorie-dense food items consumed (e.g. cakes, cookies, candy, etc.). This helps children develop improved food preferences and hunger cues to carry them throughout life. Instead, schools will implement the following methods for rewards and celebrations:
- [List non-food reward and celebration alternatives used by the District. For ideas on non-food alternatives, please review [Constructive Classroom Rewards Bonus Tip Sheet from The Quick & Easy Guide to School Wellness](#) from the Healthy Schools Campaign.]
- B. The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit food and beverage items that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards for reward and celebration purposes. More than 25 percent of children’s daily calories may come from snacks, therefore, providing Smart Snacks allows for a more nutrient-dense calorie intake.

### Fundraisers

- B. Fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards. However, the LEA may participate in infrequent exempted fundraising days, in which food and beverage items do not meet Smart Snacks standards, as the LEA sees fit. *[This statement may apply only to certain schools within an LEA. See guidance below.]* These exempted fundraising days shall not exceed nine days within one year. The LEA shall comply with the following procedures when managing exempted fundraising days:
- [Outline the District’s policy for requesting, reviewing, and approving/denying exempted fundraising days.]

## Nutrition Education

In accordance with the Georgia Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Georgia requirements and standards for Health Education. The Local Education Agency shall include nutrition education within the health education curriculum and integrate nutrition education into other core subjects, as appropriate. Various grade levels and curriculums shall use nutrition education information, research, and materials from the following resources:

- [List nutrition education resources used for nutrition education purposes. For example, schools can incorporate the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), [MyPlate](#), [Team Nutrition](#), and [FoodMASTER](#) .]

The Local Education Agency shall incorporate nutrition education into the following curriculums for the following grade levels:

- [List weekly hours of nutrition education received for grade levels/groups and how those hours are achieved (e.g. health class, science class, P.E.). If nutrition education is not incorporated weekly, describe how nutrition education is included in the curriculum (e.g. nutrition unit in health class).]

## Nutrition Promotion

The District shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels, including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

The District shall make cafeteria menus and nutrition information available through the following platforms:

- [List communication channels used for menu distribution (e.g. school website, newsletter, etc.)]

Farm to School efforts positively impact School Nutrition Programs by serving fresh and nutritious food items. Additionally, Farm to School programs have been linked to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. The District shall participate in the following Farm to School activities:

- [List Farm to School activities implemented by the District. Examples include school gardens, Harvest of the Month programs, and agricultural education, such as farm-based field trips. For more information related to Farm to School, visit USDA's [Farm to School website](#). For examples of activities and events, see the [Farm to School Activity Ideas](#) handout from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Jersey Fresh Farm to School Program, and the [Illinois Farm to School Network](#).]

Food loss and waste continue to be an issue facing the nation's food supply. In order to prevent food waste, the District will make every effort to produce the precise number of meals needed on any given day by using production records and resources such as the USDA's Food Buying Guide. However, in the event excess food remains, the District will continue to provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided through the USDA School Nutrition Programs. Therefore, the District shall follow the established food sharing plan, in accordance with Public Act 102-0359, and federal and local regulations and sanitation codes:

- [List food sharing and/or donation practices implemented by the District. For examples of these activities, see the USDA's [What You Can Do to Help Reduce Wasted Food](#) guide and the [Food Waste Reduction Toolkit for Illinois Schools](#) from Seven Generations Ahead. Additional guidance on food donation in the Child Nutrition Programs can be found in USDA memos [SP 11-2012: Guidance on the Food Donation Program in Child Nutrition Programs](#) and [SP 41-2016: The Use of Share Tables in Child Nutrition Programs](#) .]

## Marketing

*[LEAs that choose to allow food and beverage marketing in their facilities are required to include policy language that only allows the marketing of foods and beverages that meet the competitive foods standards. However, schools can always follow stricter policies than required by the USDA. [LEAs may choose Option A or Option B based on the needs of the applicable organization, or create their own description as appropriate.](#)]*

A. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to,

posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement; however, the district shall implement these standards as equipment needs replaced in the future.

- B. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement; however, the district shall implement these standards as equipment needs replaced in the future.

*[Schools may choose Option A or Option B based on the needs of the applicable District, or create their own description as appropriate. LEAs that choose to allow food and beverage marketing in schools are required to include policy language that only allows the marketing of food and beverages that meet the competitive foods standards.]*

## Physical Activity

*[Specific goals for physical activity must be included in the Local Wellness Policy. These goals must be developed using evidence-based strategies. The goals outlined below are examples of goals an LEA may incorporate into their Wellness Policy. However, schools know what goals best fit their needs, and LEAs are encouraged to edit the following section as needed.]*

Physical activity is a key component of the health and well-being of all students. Physical activity lowers the risk for certain diseases, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Physical activity also helps improve brain function, allowing students to perform better in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adolescents get at least 60 minutes of physical activity five days per week. Nearly 79 percent of school-age children fall short of meeting this requirement. The Local Education Agency recognizes this connection and commits to promoting and providing opportunities for physical activity during and outside the school day.

## Physical Education

In accordance with the Georgia Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Georgia requirements and standards for Physical Education. The LEA shall offer Physical Education class as follows:

- [List P.E. classes offered to each grade level/group as well as the number of hours spent weekly in those classes.]
- **Other Opportunities for Physical Activity**

The District shall include additional physical activity opportunities, outside of Physical Education class, during the school day through the following:

- Recess, brain breaks
-

*[It is not a Local Wellness Policy requirement for Local Education Agencies to include the number of hours of Physical Education class and other opportunities for physical activity offered to students. However, it may help schools determine the effectiveness of physical activity and education practices based on the schools' needs.]*

The following opportunities for participation in school-based sports shall be offered to students each year:

- Flag football
  - Cheerleading
- Basketball

## Physical Activity Promotion

The district shall promote physical activity through the participation in the following initiative(s):

- [List any physical activity initiatives the district participates in. Examples include Fuel Up to Play 60, All Children Exercise Simultaneously (ACES), etc.). ]

## Other School-Based Activities

Just as it takes a comprehensive curriculum to provide education to support students' futures, the Local Education Agency's wellness approach must also be comprehensive in its intent to provide students with the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. To further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, the LEA commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The Local Education Agency shall offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events shall be organized and promoted each year:

- [List all school-based wellness events celebrated annually. Examples include health fairs, TV turnoff week, and cafeteria "try days."]

The following health, wellness, and/or nutrition clubs shall be offered to students each year:

- [List all school-based student clubs or groups related to wellness along with grade levels/groups. Examples include Recess Mileage clubs, Young Chefs clubs, and Future Farmers of America.]

*[Committee members should work with those involved in the planning and operation of Other School-Based Activities. This may include school nutrition professionals, teachers, other school staff members, Parent Teacher Organizations, and student groups.]*

