

School Wellness Policy

School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

The District will convene a representative District wellness committee ("DWC"), or work within an existing school wellness committee ("SWC"), that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversees school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this District-level wellness policy (hereinafter referred to as the "wellness policy").

The DWC/SWC membership will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers, students, representatives of the school nutrition program, physical education teachers, health education teachers, school health professionals, school administrators, school board members, health professionals, and the general public. When possible, membership will also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education coordinators ("SNAP"). To the extent possible, the DWC/SWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the DWC/SWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school's compliance with the policy. The designated official for oversight is Jennifer Hake and Patsy Daltorio. The Name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these Individuals are.

Name	Title/Relationship to the School or District	Email address	Role on Committee
Jen Hake	HPE Teacher	paris@wrls.k12.oh.us	Assists in the evaluation of the wellness policy implementation
Patsy Daltorio	HPE Teacher	pdaltorio@wrls.k12.oh.us	

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

The District will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and timelines specific to each school; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where, and when; as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. It is recommended that the school use the Healthy Schools Program online tools to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation, and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: *[westernreserve.k12.org]*

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Record Keeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at the Board Office and/or on the District's central computer network. Documentation maintained in this location will include, but will not be limited to:

1. The written wellness policy;
2. Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
3. Documentation of efforts to review and update the Wellness Policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the District uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the DWC/SWC;
4. Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification **Requirements**;
5. The most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy;
6. Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy has been made available to the public.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy, and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the District website and/or District-wide communications. The District will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the DWC/SWC.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

1. The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the District are in compliance with the wellness policy;
2. The extent to which the District's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
3. A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is: *[Stephanie Fabian, EMIS Coordinator sfabian@wrls.k12.oh.us]* The DWC/SWC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

The District will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The DWC/SWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.

Community Involvement, Outreach Communications

The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC/SWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for the District. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the District's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the District and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

Nutrition

Free and Reduced Meals

1. **Applications for free/reduced priced meals are sent home to all families at the beginning of the school year. The application is always available on the school website and may be turned in at any time throughout the year. Copies of the application are also available in all offices and can be picked up or requested to be sent home.**
2. **The district will take steps to protect the privacy of students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals. All students, regardless of the type of payment they make for school meals, or the food being purchased (meal or a la carte) are given a code to enter at the cash register. School Food Authority (SFA) will assure that a child's eligibility status will never be disclosed at any point in the process of providing free or reduced price meals.**

School Meals

All schools within the District participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). **All students will be given 30 minute lunch periods. After obtaining food, students will have at least 20 minutes of seat time to eat lunch. Students will be given 10 minutes of seat time for breakfast.** All schools within the District are committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable federal child nutrition programs, that: Are accessible to all students;

1. Are appealing and attractive to children;
2. Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
3. Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations; (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
4. Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:
5. Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
6. Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
7. Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
8. All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive name;.
10. Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
11. All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
12. White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
13. Alternative entree options (e.g., salad bar, yogm1 parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
14. A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
15. Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas.

16. Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
17. Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.
18. **School meals will include fresh, locally-grown foods in school meals from farms engaged in sustainable practices whenever possible and these foods will be promoted in the cafeteria.**
19. **Only water, milk, and 100% juice shall be sold to elementary and middle school students. USDA smart snack standards prohibit the sale of caffeinated beverages to elementary and middle school students. However, high schools are allowed to sell caffeinated beverages.**

It is prohibited for students with unpaid balances to be shamed in any way. All students must be served a reimbursable meal, regardless of whether the student has money to pay or owes money. The School Food Authority will reach out to the family of a child with unpaid balances to assess whether the child is eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals. These school nutrition personnel will refer to USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum.

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, ala carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, and snack or food carts.

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including through:

1. Celebrations and parties: The District will provide a list of healthy party ideas to PTO, parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.
2. Classroom snacks are not permitted to be brought by parents: The District will provide to parents a list of acceptable non edible ideas for parties.
3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children

Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. The District will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

Nutrition Promotion

The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

1. Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques; and
2. Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that the District and individual schools may use are available at <http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/>.

Nutrition Education

The District will teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

1. Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
2. Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
3. Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
4. Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
5. Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
6. Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
7. Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
8. Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

1. Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention;
2. Food guidance from My Plate;
3. Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels;
4. Eating a variety of foods every day;
5. Balancing food intake and physical activity;
6. Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products;
7. Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans*-fat;
8. Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars;
9. Eating more calcium-rich foods;
10. Preparing healthy meals and snacks;
11. Risks of unhealthy weight control practices;
12. Accepting body size differences;
13. Food safety;
14. Importance of water consumption;
15. Importance of eating breakfast;
16. Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants;
17. Eating disorders;
18. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
19. Reducing sodium intake;
20. Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture;
21. How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior;
22. How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully;
23. Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior; and
24. Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior.

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

1. Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes an oral, written, or graphic statement made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. This term includes, but is not limited to the following: Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container;
2. Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors;
3. Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards or backboards (Note: Immediate replacement of these items are not required; however, the District will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal, or to the extent that it is financially possible over time, so that items are in compliance with the marketing policy.);

4. Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other food service equipment, as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books, or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered, or sold by the District;
5. Advertisements in school publications-or school mailings; and
6. Free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As the District/school nutrition services/Athletics Department/PTA/PTO reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the wellness policy.

Physical Activity

Physical activity during the school day (including, but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks, or physical education) will not be withheld as punishment for any reason. This does not include participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements. The District will provide teachers and other school staff with a list of ideas for alternative ways to discipline students.

To the extent practicable, the District will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The District will conduct necessary inspections and repairs;

Physical Education

The District will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts. The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The District will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary. All District elementary students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 60-89 minutes per week throughout the school year.

All District secondary students (middle and high school) are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education. The District physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the Presidential Youth Fitness Program or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in all elementary grades, and the District will require middle and high school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on physical activity:

1. The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity;
2. How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight;
3. How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process;
4. How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease;
5. Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition;
6. Differences between physical activity, exercise, and fitness;
7. Phases of an exercise session - that is, warm up, workout, and cool down;
8. Overcoming barriers to physical activity;
9. Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching;
10. Opportunities for physical activity in the community;
11. Preventing injury during physical activity;
12. Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia, and sunburn while being physically active;
13. How much physical activity is enough - that is, determining frequency, intensity, time, and type of physical activity;
14. Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan;
15. Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan;
16. Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids;
17. Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers, and culture;
18. How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness;
19. How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity;
20. How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity.

Recess (Elementary)

All elementary schools will offer at least 20 minutes of recess on all days during the school year. This requirement may be waived on early dismissal or late arrival days. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating, and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play, at the discretion of the building administrator, based on his/her best judgment of safety conditions. In the event that the District must conduct indoor recess, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students to the extent practicable. Each school will maintain and enforce its own indoor recess guidelines. Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students

to be active and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)

The District recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered periodic opportunities to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The District will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through USDA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into "core" subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies, and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The District will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement. Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.