

Local Wellness Policy: Triennial Assessment

Background

A local school wellness policy is a written document that guides a local education agency's (LEA) or school district's efforts to establish a school environment that promotes students' health, well-being and ability to learn. The wellness policy requirement was strengthened by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids (HHKA) Act of 2010. An assessment of the school wellness policy must be conducted a minimum of once every three years; however, LEAs may assess the policy more frequently.

Triennial Recordkeeping

This assessment resource is offered as a way to summarize the information gathered during the assessment. It contains the three required components:

1. Compliance with the wellness policy
2. How the wellness policy compares to model wellness policies
3. Progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy

LEAs can document the assessment in other formats as long as the three required components are included. Keep a copy of the most recent triennial assessment, school building progress reports and additional supporting documentation on file. These will be needed during a School Nutrition Program administrative review.

Public Updates

HHKA requires that LEAs make the following available to the public on an annual basis:

- The wellness policy, including any updates
- Position title of the designated school official(s) who lead the local wellness committee
- Information on how the public can get involved with the local wellness committee
- The Triennial assessment also needs to be made available to the public every 3 years

Resources

- [Sample Wellness Policy and Regulation](#): Developed by Iowa Association of School Boards and Iowa Department of Education, can be utilized as a guide when updating policies.
- [Healthy Choices Count 5-2-1-0 Registered Sites](#): Iowa Healthiest State Initiative has a registration process for schools that includes a questionnaire of current policies and practices. The questionnaire can be used as a tool to review and update the policy.

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Section 1: General Information and Wellness Committee

Information Requested	Complete the requested information in the sections below.
LEA (Local Education Agency) name:	Van Buren County Community School District
Date Triennial Assessment was completed:	1/6/2026
Date of last wellness policy review:	8/20/2025
How often does the school wellness committee meet?	Annually
How often does the school wellness committee meet? Date of last meeting?	Annually/May 14, 2025
When were the required annual public notifications completed this year?	5/09/2025 Notification prior to meetings annually. Information posted on district website and social media.

Designated School Wellness Leader

LEAs must designate at least one school official responsible for determining the extent to which each school under their jurisdiction follows the wellness policy.

Name:	Job title:	Email:
Brenda Hendrichsen Holly Strait	RN-School Nurse Rn-School Nurse	Brenda.hendrichsen@vbcwarriors.org Holly.strait@vbcwarriors.org

School Wellness Committee Members

Schools must permit involvement from parents, students, school food service, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, school board members, school administrators and general public.

Name:	Job title/volunteer:	Email:
Jeremy Hissem	Superintendent	Jeremy.hissem@vbcwarriors.org
MaryDawn Schuck	Principal Douds Center	Marydawn.schuck@vbcwarriors.org
Brandon Stuhr	Principal MS/HS	Brandon.stuhr@vbcwarriors.org
Wes White	Principal Harmony Center	Wesley.white@vbcwarriors.org
Gayle Hervey	Food Services Director	Gayle.hervey@vbcwarriors.org
Brenda Hendrichsen	RN MS/HS-Harmony Center	Brenda.hendrichsen@vbcwarriors.org
Holly Strait	RN Douds Center	Holly.strait@vbcwarriors.org
Bonnie Watson	K-6 Physical Education	Bonnie.watson@vbcwarriors.org
Brycen Starnes	Health/Physical Education	Brycen.starnes@vbcwarriors.org
Brian Johnson	Physical Education	Brian.johnson@vbcwarriors.org

Name:	Job title/volunteer:	Email:
Mark Yeoman William Cline Jonathon Strait	Dean of Students School Board President/VBCH Student	Mark.yeoman@vbcwarriors.org William.cline@vbcwarriors.org Jonathon.strait@vbcwarriors.org

Section 2: Compliance with the Wellness Policy

At a minimum, local wellness policies are required to include:

- ✓ Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education
- ✓ Specific goals for physical activity
- ✓ Specific goals for other school-based activities that promote student wellness
- ✓ Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students before, during and 30 minutes after the school day
- ✓ Standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day (classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, incentives, etc.)
- ✓ Policies for food and beverage marketing that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards
- ✓ Description of public involvement, public updates, policy leadership, and evaluation plan.

Another form of documentation for Section 2 is the [School Wellness Policy Checklist](#).

Section 3: Comparison to Model School Wellness Policies

The [Alliance for a Healthier Generation Model Policy](#) is to be used as a best practice guide. Compare local wellness policy language with the model policy and identify areas where the language is comparable to the model policy and potential areas that can be strengthened.

Optional Resource: [WeISAT 3.0](#), Online quantitative tool that determines where revisions are needed to strengthen the language in school wellness policies and provides sample language.

Areas with similar language:	Potential areas to strengthen language:
Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low fat and fat free dairy products, and healthy foods. Promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits. Schools providing access to healthy foods outside the reimbursable meal programs before school, during school and thirty minutes after school shall meet the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards, at a minimum. This includes such items as those sold through a la carte lines, vending machines, student run stores, and fundraising activities;	● Current policy does not specify how often to meet. Consider adding the verbiage of, "at a minimum of annually." Current policy states, "Making the policy and updated assessment of the implementation available to the public (e.g., posting on the website, newsletters, etc.)" Consider adding specific places for the public to review, such as "the district's Facebook page," (or any other specific district used social media platforms.)

Section 4: Progress Towards Goals

Evaluate your compliance and progress towards each of your goals using a method of your choosing. The [Local School Wellness Policy Progress Report](#) is one example that can be used.

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1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
Program.Intake@usda.gov

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