

## WELLNESS POLICY

The Stanton board promotes healthy students by supporting wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. The school district supports a healthy environment where students learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. By facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity, schools contribute to the basic health status of students. Improved health optimizes student performance potential.

The school district provides a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors. The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school district goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity.

The school district supports and promotes proper dietary habits contributing to students' health status and academic performance. All foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities during the instructional day should meet or exceed the school district nutrition standards and in compliance with state and federal law. Foods should be served with consideration toward nutritional integrity, variety, appeal, taste, safety and packaging to ensure high-quality meals. *See the DE guidance on Healthy Kids Act, [www.tinyurl.com/Iowa-HKA](http://www.tinyurl.com/Iowa-HKA)*

The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Toward this end, the school district may utilize electronic identification and payment systems; provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income; promote the availability of meals to all students; and/or use nontraditional methods for serving meals, such as "grab-and-go" or classroom breakfast.

The school district may develop a local wellness policy committee, or may have the superintendent consult with and seek input from representatives of the board, parents, leaders in food/exercise authority and employees to seek input regarding the schools' wellness program. Activities of the local wellness policy committee may include developing a plan to implement and measure the local wellness policy and monitor the effectiveness of the policy. The committee will designate an individual to monitor implementation and evaluation of the policy. The committee will report annually to the board regarding the effectiveness of this policy.

### Specific Wellness Goals

- specific goals for nutrition education, (*see Appendix A*)
- physical activity, (*see Appendix B*)
- other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness, (*see Appendix C*)

The nutrition guidelines for all foods available will focus on promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity in the school district.

The board will monitor and evaluate this policy every three years or as needed.

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Reviewed: 7/17/19

Revised: 1/23/19

## WELLNESS POLICY

Legal Reference:      Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.* (2005)  
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 *et seq.*,  
Iowa Code 256.7(29), 256.11(6)  
281 IAC 12.5(19), 12.5(20), 58.11

Cross Reference:    504.5    Student Fund-Raising  
                          504.6    Student Activity Program  
                          710      School Food Services

### Nutrition Education and Promotion

The school district will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and physical activity;
- links with meal programs, other foods and nutrition-related community services; and,
- includes training for teachers and other staff.

## Physical Activity

### **Daily Physical Education**

The school district will provide physical education that:

- is for all students in grades K-12 for the entire school year;
- is taught by a certified physical education teacher;
- includes students with disabilities, students with special health-care needs may be provided alternative educational settings; and,
- engages students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50 percent of physical education class time.

### **Daily Recess**

Elementary schools will provide recess for students that:

- is at least 30 minutes a day;
- is preferably outdoors; if indoors, students will be permitted to be active as space allows and safety is addressed
- encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment; and,
- discourages extended periods (i.e., periods of two or more hours) of inactivity.

When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

### **Physical Activity and Punishment**

Employees will ensure physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) is not used as a punishment.

Stanton employees may withhold students from recess. Employees will make efforts to not use recess or physical education for discipline reasons. Employees will make efforts to not use recess or physical education exclusively as discipline. If extenuating circumstances exist the principal and employee/teacher/parent will work out a plan for that student.

## Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness

### **Integrating Physical Activity into Classroom Settings**

For students to receive the nationally recommended amount of daily physical activity and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond the physical education class. Toward that end, the school district will:

- offer classroom health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities;
- discourage sedentary activities, such as watching television, playing computer games, etc.;
- provide opportunities for physical activity to be incorporated into other subject lessons; and,
- encourage classroom teachers to provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

### **Optional Issues**

### **Communication with Parents**

The school district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The school district will:

- send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school websites and provide nutrient analyses of school menus;
- encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the established nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages;
- provide parents a list of food ideas to support healthy celebrations/parties, rewards and fundraising activities;
- support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school; and,
- include sharing information about physical activity through the school's website, newsletter, other take-home materials, or special events.

### **Food Marketing in Schools**

School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. The school district will:

- limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually;
- discourage school-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages;
- promote healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products; and
- market activities that promote healthful behaviors (and are therefore allowable) including: vending machine covers promoting water; pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines; sales of fruit for fundraisers; and coupons for discount gym memberships.

## Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness

### **Staff Wellness Option**

The school district values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Each school should:

- establish and maintain a staff wellness committee composed of at least one classroom teacher, dietitian or other health professional, physical education teacher, administration
- may develop, promote and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness developed by the staff wellness committee;
- may base the plan on input solicited from employees and outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among employees.
- may provide an annual wellness challenge with another district in the conference organized by school nurse and other wellness committee members.

## Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods Available on Campus

### **School Meals**

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by state and federal law;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally equivalent non-dairy alternatives (as defined by the USDA); and,
- ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain with the exception of those eligible for the waivers.

Schools should:

- engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys, in selecting foods offered through the meal programs in order to identify new, healthful and appealing food choices; and
- share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. (The information could be made available on menus, school website, on cafeteria menu boards, placards or other point-of-purchase materials.)

### **Breakfast**

To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn, schools will:

- operate the breakfast program, to the extent possible;
- arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast in the classroom, “grab-and-go” breakfasts or breakfast during morning break or recess, to the extent possible;
- notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program, where available; and,
- encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials or other means.

### **Free and Reduced-Priced Meals**

The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Toward this end, the school district may:

- utilize electronic identification and payment systems;
- promote the availability of meals to all students.

### **Meal Times and Scheduling**

The school district:

- will provide students with adequate time to eat breakfast and lunch once they are seated;
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; should not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;

- will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and,
- should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

#### Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods Available on Campus

#### **Qualification of Food Service Staff**

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the meal programs. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will:

- provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals; and,
- provide staff development programs that include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, nutrition managers and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

#### **Sharing of Foods**

The school district discourages students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

#### **Foods Sold Outside the Meal (e.g. vending, a la carte, sales)**

All foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day will meet nutrition standards as required by state or federal law. For current state guidelines, click here <http://tinyurl.com/Iowa-HKA>. Foods that do not

#### **Fundraising Activities**

There are two types of fundraising – regulated and other. Regulated fundraisers are those that offer the sale of foods or beverages on school property and that are targeted primarily to PK-12 students by or through other PK-12 students, student groups, school organizations, or through on-campus school stores. Regulated fundraising activities must comply with the federal nutrition guidelines. All other fundraising activities are encouraged, but not required, to comply with the federal nutrition guidelines if the activities involve foods and beverages. These are fundraising activities that students are selling outside of school hours intended to be consumed at home.

The school district encourages fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The school district will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

#### **Snacks**

Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages and other considerations. The school district will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel and parents. Current guidelines, go to <https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/USDASmartSnacks.pdf>

### **Celebrations**

Schools should evaluate their celebrations practices that involve food during the school day. The school district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers by email and or news letter.

#### **Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods Available on Campus**

### **School-Sponsored Events**

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day are encouraged to meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually.

### **Food Safety**

All foods made available on campus adhere to food safety and security guidelines.

- All foods made available on campus comply with the state and local food safety and sanitation regulations. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines are implemented to prevent food illness in schools.  
[http://www.fns.usda.govtn/Resources/servingsafe\\_chapter6.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.govtn/Resources/servingsafe_chapter6.pdf)
- For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations are limited to child nutrition staff and authorized personnel.

## Plan for Measuring Implementation

### **Monitoring**

The superintendent will ensure compliance with established school district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

In each school:

- the principal will ensure compliance with those policies in the school and will report on the school's compliance to the superintendent; and,
- food service staff, at the school or school district level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent or principal.

In the school district:

- the school district will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the school district has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the school district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible;
- the superintendent will develop a summary report every three years on school district-wide compliance with the school district's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the school district; and,
- the report will be provided to the school board and also distributed to all school wellness committees, parent/teacher organizations, principals and health services personnel in the school district.

### **Policy Review**

To help with the initial development of the school district's wellness policies, each school in the school district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and practices. The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the school district level to identify and prioritize needs.

Assessments will be repeated every 2 years to help review policy compliance, assess progress and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the school district will review the nutrition and physical activity policies and practices and the provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity. The school district, and individual schools within the school district will, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.