

LEXINGTON LOCAL SCHOOLS WELLNESS POLICY

WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the Lexington Local School District.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

The Board, however, believes this effort to support the students' development of healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise cannot be accomplished by the schools alone. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:

- Nutrition education shall be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
- Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive Health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
- Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
- Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
- The standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be behavior focused.
- Nutrition education shall include enjoyable, developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant participatory activities.

- Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.
- Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
- Nutrition education posters will be displayed in the cafeteria.
- The school cafeteria shall serve as a learning lab by allowing students to apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills taught in the classroom when making choices at mealtime.
- Nutrition education shall reinforce lifelong balance by emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate.
- Nutrition education benchmarks and standards include a focus on media literacy as it relates to food marketing strategies.
- Nutrition education standards and benchmarks promote the benefits of a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products and low-fat and fat-free dairy products.
- Staff responsible for providing instruction in nutrition education shall regularly participate in professional development activities designed to better enable them to teach the benchmarks and standards.
- Instruction related to the standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be provided by highly qualified teachers.

B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:

1. **Physical Education**

- A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in 1-12 in accordance with the standards and benchmarks established by the state.
- Physical education classes shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate motor skills and social skills, as well as knowledge.
- The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
- The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate

knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

- Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks established by the State.
- The 1 – 12 program shall include instruction in physical education as well as opportunities to participate in competitive and non-competitive team sports to encourage lifelong physical activity.
- Planned instruction in physical education shall require students to be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least fifty percent (50%) of scheduled class time.
- Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, or harassment of any kind.
- Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.
- Planned instruction in physical education shall take into account gender and cultural differences.

2. Physical Activity

- Physical activity **should** not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
- Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day.
- Schools shall encourage families to provide physical activity outside the regular school day, such as outdoor play at home, participation in sports sponsored by community agencies or organizations, and in lifelong physical activities like bowling, swimming or tennis.

C. With regard to other school-based activities the District shall:

- The schools shall provide at least twenty (20) minutes daily for students to eat.
- The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
- The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.

- Activities, such as tutoring or club meetings, shall not be scheduled during mealtimes, unless students may eat during those meetings.
- The schools may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
- Schools in our system utilize electronic identification and payment systems, therefore, eliminating any stigma or identification of students eligible to receive free and/or reduced meals.
- Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.

Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well-being, and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:

- A. The food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program.
- B. The guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- C. The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritious value.
- D. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well.
- E. All foods available on campus during the school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as classroom snacks and from vending machines.
- F. All foods available to students in the dining area during school food service hours shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods available to student a la carte or from vending machines.
- G. The food service program shall be administered by a director who is properly qualified, certificated, licensed, or credentialed, according to current professional standards.
- H. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.

- I. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service department.

The Board designates the Superintendent in conjunction with the Wellness Committee with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the District's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

The Superintendent shall report on the District's compliance with this policy and the progress toward achieving the goals set forth herein when requested to do so by the Board.

Wellness Committee members:

Superintendent
Food Service Director
Teacher
School Nurse
Community Member
Parent
Student