

**ERATH
EXCELS!
ACADEMY**

NUTRITION/WELLNESS POLICY

2022-2023

Nutrition and Wellness Policy

PURPOSE:

To establish a policy that addresses nutrition education goals, physical activity goals, nutrition standards for all foods available on the school campus during the school day when school is in session, and other school-based activity goals designed to promote student wellness.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. Nutrition education goal: designed to exert a positive influence on students eating behaviors.
- B. Physical activity goal: to provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills for specific physical activities, to maintain physical fitness, to regularly participate in physical activity and to understand the short and long term benefits of a physically active and healthy lifestyle.
- C. Nutrition standards: to ensure that reimbursable school meals meet the program requirements and nutrition standards set forth under federal and state law. Additionally, these standards will address most foods and beverages sold or served to students during the school day while school is in session, including those available outside of the school meal programs. Donated food and food purchased with local funds for the Huston Academy Food Pantry will not always follow these standards, but will be used to bridge the food insecurity that we see with some of our students.
- D. School-based activity goals: to create and maintain a school environment that provides consistent wellness messages and is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity.

WELLNESS POLICY

The District shall follow state and federal nutrition guidelines that advance student health and reduce childhood obesity and shall promote the general wellness of all students through nutrition education, physical education and activity, and other school-based activities.

GUIDELINES AND GOALS

The District shall develop nutritional guidelines and wellness goals in consultation with the local school health advisory council and with involvement from representatives of the student body, school food service, school administration, the Board, parents, and the public.

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The District shall ensure that nutritional guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall be at least as restrictive as federal regulations and guidance and are in accordance with the Texas Public Nutrition Policy.

In addition to legal requirements, the District shall:

1. Establish age-appropriate guidelines for food and/or beverages served during classroom parties, birthdays, or school celebrations or events. Campuses shall follow these guidelines when offering food and/or beverages during events, parties and celebrations.
2. Provide guidance to campuses requiring that birthday and/or school celebrations shall not occur in the cafeteria during meal serving time. Such events may take place at the end of the school day after the last scheduled class or after school.
3. Provide guidelines for schools strongly suggesting that foods and/or beverages shall not be used as rewards for academic performance, except when provided in a specific student's individualized education program (IEP) or behavior intervention plan.
4. Provide teachers with education and guidelines on the use of food for instructional purposes or as a reward in the classroom.
5. Strongly suggest that all snack foods served to students in Grades 7-12 at any time during the school day will meet the Smart Snacks nutritional requirements, required by the USDA and set forth in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
6. Designate that all campuses, Grades 7-12, can be involved in the sale of food or beverage for fund-raising during the school day only on the six allowable school days throughout a school year. Any other fund-raising activities that involve the sale of food and/or beverages shall take place outside of the school day.
7. Require that food and/or beverages offered to students and employees of the District through the District Food Service Department during the day as a snack or meal, whether provided by parents or staff, shall be consistent with the goals of the policy and in compliance with the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy.

WELLNESS GOALS

NUTRITION EDUCATION

The District shall implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated health program with a nutrition education component and shall use health course curriculum that emphasizes the importance of proper nutrition.

In addition, the District establishes the following goals for nutrition education:

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1. Students in grades 7-12 shall receive nutrition education that fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors through their participation in the health education and physical education courses.
2. Nutrition education shall be a District wide priority and shall be integrated into other areas of the curriculum, as appropriate.
3. Educational nutrition information shall be shared with families and the general public to positively influence the health of students and community members through the use of newsletters, school lunch menus, and the District Web site.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The District shall implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated health program with physical education and physical activity components and shall offer at least the required amount of physical activity for all grades.

In addition, the District establishes the following goals for physical activity:

1. The District shall provide an environment that fosters safe and enjoyable fitness activities for all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
2. Physical education classes shall regularly emphasize moderate to vigorous activity.
3. The District shall encourage parents to support their children's participation, to be active role models, to include physical activity in family events.
4. The District shall encourage teachers to integrate physical activity into the academic curriculum when appropriate.
5. The District shall encourage students, parents, staff, and community members to use the school's physical activity facilities outside of the school day as available.

SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES

The District establishes the following goal to create an environment conducive to healthful eating and physical activity and to express a consistent wellness message through other school-based activities. Each campus shall include the Campus Improvement Plan strategies and performance objectives related to coordinated school health implementation, student participation in moderate to vigorous physical activity, compliance with the wellness policy, and completion of the FITNESS GRAM testing on all students in grades 7-12.

Huston Academy is dedicated to providing a well-rounded education and is concerned with the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development of all our students. Food insecurity plays a huge role in how successful we will be in this development of our students. For this reason, we have established the Huston Academy Food Pantry. This pantry is available to any

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of our students and their families who meet the qualification criteria. The Huston Academy Food Pantry will provide a backpack full of food at the end of every week that will help to sustain the student and the family through the weekend and into the next week. Additionally, snacks such as granola bars, will be made available through the pantry to all students throughout the school day.

STAFF WELLNESS

School staff serves as role models for students and are the key to successful implementation of student wellness programs. Therefore, the District and its schools shall offer staff wellness programs and/or opportunities for staff to participate in staff wellness programs. These may include workshops and presentations on health promotion, education, and resources that shall enhance morale, encourage healthy lifestyles, prevent injury, reduce chronic disease, and foster exceptional role modeling.

MONITORING

The campus personnel is responsible for documenting all receipts and nutritional information for items sold on the campus during the school day. This information must be readily available for review during an Administrative Review of the Child Nutrition program.

RECORDS RETENTION

Records regarding the District's wellness policy will be retained in accordance with law and the District's records management program. Questions may be directed to the Superintendent, the District's designated records management officer.

IMPLEMENTATION

The coordinator of the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) shall oversee the implementation of this policy. Each campus principal will ensure his/her campus complies with the District's Wellness Policy

Annually, the SHAC will assess the District's and each campus's progress toward meeting the goals of the policy and plan by reviewing District – and campus- level activities and events tied to the wellness program.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public and the school community (including parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, and school administrators) are invited to participate in the wellness policy process. If

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you are interested or need additional information, you can contact Lori Foster at lfoster@erath-excels.org or 254-965-8883.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.