

# **USD 327 DISTRICT WELLNESS PLAN**

The board offers the following district wellness plan as a supplement to its wellness policy, JGCA. This plan reflects some of the board's elected methods to promote student and staff wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and provide assurance that school meals and other food and beverages sold and otherwise made available on the school campus during the school day are consistent with applicable minimum federal standards. This plan is periodically revised in accordance with policy JGCA. Questions concerning its contents may be directed to the superintendent at 785-472-5561.

## **NUTRITION PROMOTION AND EDUCATION**

Designated instructional staff will integrate nutrition education into the district's sequential, comprehensive health education program. The program will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Nutrition education will be interactive and will endeavor to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to adopt healthy eating behaviors.

Nutrition education may be provided in school cafeterias, as well as in the classroom, with coordination between the food service personnel and teachers.

The district will provide appropriate training to the staff members responsible for providing nutrition education and training to students on strategies for promoting healthy eating behaviors.

Consistent nutrition messages will be disseminated throughout the district, schools, classrooms, cafeterias, homes, and community utilizing one or more of the following methods:

1. Handouts;
2. Posters and bulletin boards;
3. Articles and information provided in district or school newsletters;
4. Presentations that focus on nutritional value and healthy lifestyles; and
5. Special programs that highlight aspects of nutrition education

### **Lessons and Activities**

District staff will implement nutrition education lessons and activities for all grades that are appropriate to the student's age and developmental levels.

Instructional staff will be requested to integrate nutritional themes into lessons and activities, as appropriate, to complement the academic standards based on nutrition education. Nutritional themes may include, but are not limited to:

1. Knowledge of USDA dietary guidelines;
2. Sources and variety of foods;
3. Guide to a healthy diet, including snacks and the importance of breakfast;
4. Concepts of control and prevention of disease and nutritional deficiencies;
5. Use and misuse of dietary supplements;

6. Understanding calories;
7. Understanding and using food labels;
8. Essential nutrients and their relationship to physical performance and body composition;
9. Appreciating cultural diversity related to food and eating;
10. Recognizing appropriate serving sizes;
11. Safe food preparation, handling, and storage; and
12. Identifying and limiting junk food.

District staff members are expected to be supportive in helping students to practice the nutritional themes used in lessons and activities.

### Family and Community Involvement

The superintendent or designee will be responsible for promoting family and community involvement in supporting and reinforcing nutrition education in the schools utilizing one or more of the following methods:

1. Nutrition education materials are sent home with students, posted in school buildings.
2. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to send healthy snacks/meals to school, which includes birthday/party treats;
3. Families are invited to attend any exhibitions of student nutrition projects or health fairs;
4. Nutrition education workshops and screening services may be offered;
5. Nutrition education curriculum may include homework that students can do with their families, such as:
  - a. Reading and interpreting food labels,
  - b. Reading nutrition-related articles, and
  - c. Preparing healthy recipes
6. School staff members will be encouraged to cooperate with other agencies and community groups to provide opportunities for student projects related to nutrition, as appropriate.

### **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Developmentally appropriate physical activities during the school day for students will be designed to achieve optimal health, wellness, fitness, and performance benefits, and may include the following:

1. Physical activity and brain breaks for students between lessons or classes, as appropriate; activities will be planned to maximize student participation;
2. Providing information to parents/guardians that encourages students' physical activity outside the school environment, such as outdoor play at home, sports, recreation programs, before and after-school programs, community programs, etc.;

3. Establishing guidelines governing the age-appropriate physical activity opportunities for students that will be provided in each school;
4. Offering and supervising walking programs for students on school property before school, at lunch, or after school;
5. Daily recess periods for elementary school students featuring time for unstructured but supervised active play;
6. Introducing physical activities other than competitive sports to students
7. Sending students home with suggestions for physical activities for use by parents/guardians through:
  - a. Social media/newsletters,
  - b. Periodic information and updates, and
  - c. Notices of family activity events taking place in the schools or community.
8. Promoting the use of school facilities by students and the community for physical activity, fitness, sports, and recreation programs offered by district schools and/or community based organizations outside of school hours through:
  - a. Announcements
  - b. Posted notices
  - c. Newsletters

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Professional staff will provide physical education instruction that complies with the established curriculum and academic standards to ensure that students develop required skills and knowledge.

The physical education curriculum and program will be reviewed and updated, as appropriate.

District schools will encourage all students to participate in physical education classes.

Physical education staff will utilize appropriate instructional strategies that provide meaningful inclusion of all students, regardless of skill or fitness level.

The district's physical education programs will:

1. Provide physical activity options and alternatives from a variety of categories such as outdoor, rhythmical, and lifetime;
2. Feature cooperative as well as competitive games;
3. Teach self-management skills as well as movement skills;
4. Actively teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation;
5. Promote participation in physical activity outside of school;
6. Endeavor to be an enjoyable experience for students;
7. Encourage lifelong participation in health-enhancing physical activities;
8. Attempt to create a positive learning environment in which students feel safe and supported; and
9. Utilize physical activities that are developmentally appropriate.

Suitably adapted physical education will be included, when practicable, as part of a student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, or accommodation when chronic health problems, disabling conditions, or other special needs preclude such student's participation in regular physical education instruction or activities. Documented medical conditions and disabilities will be accommodated in accordance with the applicable IEP or Section 504 Plan.

An annual assessment and inventory of equipment, facilities, and resources used for physical education courses will be made by physical education staff. Equipment, facilities, and resources determined to be obsolete, out-of-date, unusable, or unsafe will be reported for disposition.

Physical education staff will attend professional development opportunities and in-service programs, in accordance with board policy.

District schools will discourage the withholding or use of physical education solely as a form of punishment.

Student physical activity on school grounds during school hours will be supervised to enforce safety rules and to attempt to prevent injuries.

Building administrators are encouraged to notify district staff that physical activity (e.g. recess) will not be used or withheld as a form of punishment.

### Assessment

A local assessment system may be implemented to track student progress on the Health and Physical Education academic standards. Course grades will be awarded in the same manner grades are awarded in other subject areas and will be included in calculations of grade point average, class rank, and academic recognition programs.

### Family and Community Involvement

To promote family and community involvement in supporting and reinforcing physical education in the schools, the building principal or designee will be responsible for ensuring that:

1. Physical education activity ideas may be sent home with students;
2. Parents/Guardians are actively encouraged to promote their child's participation in the school's physical education programs and any after-school activities through information distributed by the school;
3. Families are invited to attend and participate in physical education activity programs when held;
4. Physical education curriculum may include homework that students can do with their families.
5. School staff is encouraged to consider student preferences and interest when developing physical education programs.
6. School staff is encouraged to work with local recreation agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for students to participate in physical activity programs outside of school.

## **OTHER SCHOOL BASED ACTIVITIES**

Drinking water shall be available and accessible to students, without restriction and at no cost to the student, at all meal periods and throughout the school day.

Nutrition professionals who meet hiring criteria established by the district and in compliance with federal regulations shall administer the school meals program. Professional development and continuing education shall be provided for district nutrition staff, as required by federal regulations.

1. Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.
2. District administrators may consider offering alternative service models to increase school breakfast participation, such as breakfast served in the classroom and “second chance breakfast” to reinforce the positive educational, behavioral, and health impacts of a healthy breakfast.
3. Students shall have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals and snacks.
4. Access to the food service operation shall be limited to authorized staff.
5. Nutrition content of school meals shall be available to students and parents/guardians on the district website with the monthly menus.
6. The district shall provide appropriate training to staff on the components of the school wellness policy and plan.
7. Fundraising projects during the school day submitted for approval shall be supportive of healthy eating and student wellness or at least neutral on that topic.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

Fundraising projects must be submitted for district approval in accordance with district policy. School fundraising activities will be approved with consideration of the following:

1. Fundraising activities held during the school day involving the sale of food or beverages will be limited to foods that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, unless an exemption is approved by the building principal;
2. Availability of any food or beverage items sold as part of a fundraising activity will be restricted until at least thirty (30) minutes after the last lunch period;
3. Fundraising activities that promote physical activity will be encouraged; and
4. District staff members are encouraged to select foods and beverages which are low in sugar and fat content to be sold as part of any fundraisers for school sponsored activities, programs, or events outside of the school day.

For purposes of this regulation, school day means the period from 30 minutes prior to the start of school until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day.

Copies of this administrative regulation will be available in the central office and will be distributed to activity sponsors, student treasurers of school activities, and other interested individuals and groups.

Exempt fundraiser foods or beverages may not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.

## **NUTRITION GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOODS/BEVERAGES AT SCHOOL**

All foods and beverages available in district schools during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing obesity.

Foods and beverages provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with established federal nutrition standards.

### **Competitive Foods**

Competitive foods available for sale shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). These standards shall apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold to students, which may include, but are not limited to: a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack carts, conducted during the school day.

Competitive foods are defined as foods and beverages offered or sold to students on school campus during the school day, which are not part of the reimbursable school breakfast or lunch.

For purposes of this policy, school campus means any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that students may access during the school day.

For purposes of this policy, school day means the period from 30 minutes prior to the start of school until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day.

The district may impose additional restrictions on competitive foods, provided that the restrictions are not inconsistent with federal requirements.

### **Non-Sold Competitive Foods**

Non-sold competitive foods available to students, which may include but are not limited to foods and beverages offered as rewards and incentives, at classroom parties and celebrations, or as shared classroom snacks are encouraged to be of healthy content.

If the offered competitive foods do not meet or exceed the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, the following standards shall apply:

1. Rewards and Incentives:
  - a. Healthy options are encouraged if food is used as rewards and incentives in district schools.
2. Classroom Parties and Celebrations:
  - a. Parents/Guardians shall be informed through newsletters or other efficient communication methods that foods/beverages should only be brought in when requested for scheduled parties.
  - b. Food celebrations shall not occur until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the last lunch period, unless given administrator approval.

The district shall provide a list of suggested nonfood ideas and healthy food and beverage alternatives to parents/guardians and staff, which may be available through newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods.

## Marketing/Contracting

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School) and comply with established Board policy and administrative regulations.

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

District schools may provide appropriate instruction on walking and bicycling safety to students.

To make walking and biking to school safer and easier for students, improvements to school zone traffic safety may be made by:

1. Developing drop-off and pick-up procedures and informing students, parents/guardians, and district staff by means of:
  - a. Reminders in the forms of letters or emails at the start of each school term and as necessary throughout the school year, and
  - b. Posting of notice/signs.
2. Designating a drop-off and pick-up zone to discourage traffic congestion in front of schools;
3. Providing instructions on traffic safety for school personnel, volunteers, and students who drive to school;
4. Using a designated employee, parent/guardian, or volunteer at drop-off locations to open the student's door and expedite the drop-off process.

Designated school personnel, police, and volunteers may periodically evaluate drop-off and pick-up conditions and provide safety information and instruction to drivers.

The Superintendent or designee may meet periodically with local municipality officials, law enforcement, and community organizations to develop, evaluate, and maintain safe routes to school.

In cooperation with the local ordinances and laws, physical improvements such as curb striping and signage revision may be made to the school's drop-off and pick-up zones and/or parking and stopping spots.