



## **New Lexington School District Wellness Policy**

### **8510 - WELLNESS**

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the New Lexington City School District as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

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.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. 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.

Also, with the addition of The Nutrition Group, these goals become even more attainable as they help oversee our cafeterias, food purchases, and parts of our Nutrition Education efforts.

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:
  - 1. 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.
  - 2. Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive Health curriculum in accordance with the

curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.

3. 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.
4. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
5. Nutrition education shall include enjoyable, developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and others.
6. Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.
7. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
8. Nutrition education posters, such as the My Plate and Offer vs Serve, will be displayed in the cafeteria.
9. 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.
10. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school by engaging and involving families and the community.
11. Nutrition education shall reinforce lifelong balance by emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate.
12. Nutrition education benchmarks and standards include a focus on media literacy as it relates to food marketing strategies.
13. 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.
14. 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.

15. Instruction related to the standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be provided by highly qualified teachers.
16. The District shall provide information to parents that is designed to encourage them to reinforce at home the standards and benchmarks being taught in the classroom.

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

1. **Physical Education**

- a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- b. 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.
- c. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- d. Planned instruction in physical education shall promote participation in physical activity outside the regular school day.
- e. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- f. Physical education classes 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.
- g. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.

- h. The K-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.
- i. Teachers properly certificated/licensed in the subject area of physical education shall provide all instruction in physical education.
- j. Professional development opportunities should focus on the physical education content area.
- k. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- l. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- m. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, bullying or harassment of any kind.
- n. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.
- o. On an annual basis, physical education teachers shall review and affirm receipt of the Ohio Department of Health's concussion information sheet.
- p. Physical Education teachers shall remove from class participation any student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury. The Principal and/or teacher shall notify parents or guardians about the possible concussion or head injury.
- q. Any student who has been removed from physical education class participation because s/he has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to physical education class until the student's condition is assessed by a physician, and the physician gives the student written clearance that it is safe to return to class.

2. **Physical Activity**

- a. Physical activity shall not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
- b. Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day.
- c. In addition to planned physical education, the school shall provide age-appropriate physical activities (e.g., recess during the school day, intramurals and clubs before and after school, and interscholastic sports) that meet the needs of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special health care needs.
- d. All students in grades 7-12 shall have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities that emphasize physical activity.
- e. Schools shall discourage extended periods of student inactivity, without some physical activity.

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

- 1. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
- 2. Schools may limit the number of celebrations involving serving food during the school day.
- 3. The schools may use environmentally friendly practices, such as the use of locally grown foods and non-disposable tableware and dishes.
- 4. 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.
- 5. The schools may demonstrate support for the health of all students by hosting health clinics and screenings and encouraging parents to enroll their eligible children in Medicaid or in other children's health insurance programs for which they may

qualify.

6. 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.
7. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during mealtimes, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.

D. With regard to nutrition promotion, the district shall:

1. encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day;
2. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods:
  - a. a variety of fresh produce to include those prepared without added fats, sugars, refined sugars, and sodium;
  - b. a variety of vegetables daily to include specific subgroups as defined by dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy;
  - c. whole grain products – half of all grains need to be whole grain-rich upon initial implementation and all grains must be whole grain-rich within two (2) years of implementation;
  - d. fluid milk that is fat-free (unflavored and flavored) and low-fat (unflavored);
  - e. meals designed to meet specific calorie ranges for age/grade groups;
3. provide opportunities for students to develop the knowledge and skills for consuming healthful foods.

Rewarding children in the classroom should not involve candy and other foods that can undermine children's diets and health and reinforce unhealthy eating habits. A wide variety of alternative rewards can be used to provide positive reinforcement for children's behavior and academic performance.

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

- A. In accordance with Policy [8500](#), entitled Food Service, 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. As set forth in Policy [8531](#), entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, 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, from vending machines, for classroom parties, or at holiday celebrations.
- F. All foods available to students in the dining area during school food service hours shall comply with the current Smart Snack Guidelines, including competitive foods available to student a la carte or from vending machines.
- G. All foods available on campus at any time shall comply with the current Smart Snack Guidelines, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as well as foods that are served as classroom snacks, from vending machines, for fund raisers, for classroom parties, at holiday celebrations, at concession stands, or at any school-related event.
- H. The school food service program may involve students, parents, staff, and school officials in the selection of competitive food items to be sold in the schools.
- I. The food service program shall be administered by a qualified nutrition professional.
- J. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.

- K. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program.

The Board designates the Superintendent and the building principals as the individuals charged 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 appoint a District-wide Wellness Committee that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, educational staff (including physical education teachers), school health professionals, members of the public, and school administrators to oversee development, implementation, evaluation and periodic update of this policy. The Wellness Committee shall be an ad hoc committee with members recruited and appointed annually.

The Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:

- A. assessment of the current school environment;
- B. review of the District's Wellness policy;
- C. presentation of the Wellness policy to the Board for approval;
- D. measurement of the implementation of the policy; and
- E. recommendation for the revision of the policy, is necessary.

Before the end of each school year, the Wellness Committee shall recommend to the Superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary and/or appropriate.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the Wellness Committee's progress and on its evaluation of the policy's implementation and areas for improvement, including status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining the policy's goals.

The Superintendent is also responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall include information in the student handbook and on the website and post the policy on the District's website, including the Wellness Committee's assessment of the policy's implementation.



Adopted 7/17/06  
Revised 8/18/08  
Revised 1/12/09  
Revised 8/20/12  
Revised 11/18/13  
Revised 4/22/14  
Revised 4/21/15  
Revised 6/27/17

**© Neola 2017**

Revised 7/26/21