

Policy EFD - Wellness

The Districts recognize that health and student success are inter-related. Healthy kids learn better. Our goal is to support a learning environment that will promote and provide opportunity for healthy choices that result in improved physical, emotional, and social well-being.

A local school wellness policy is a written document that guides the District's efforts to establish a school building environment that promotes students' health, well-being and ability to learn. The wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and further strengthened by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-296), the State of New Hampshire Minimum Standards for School Approval (Ed 306.02, Ed 306.04, and Ed 306.11) and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) final regulations adopted July 29, 2016. The Districts are committed to a healthy school learning environment through nutrition education, physical activity and the promotion of wellness at all school sites.

In order to support that goal, the Board directs the Superintendent to establish a Wellness Committee. The charge of the committee is to establish goals for and oversee student health programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this policy ensuring that it continues to meet the USDA FNS final regulations. Further, the Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that each school is in compliance with the approved Wellness Policy.

1. Nutrition

Nutrition Education

- Nutrition education is designed and implemented to help students learn nutrition related skills, including but not limited to two of the following: planning a healthy meal, understanding and using food labels, critically evaluating nutrition information, misinformation and commercial food advertising.
- Nutrition education will reinforce lifelong balance, emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate. At least one example will be used.
- Cafeteria staff will participate in providing nutrition education. Students will be educated through at least two new food experiences and exposed to a wide variety of food choices. Consistent encouragement should be given to children to try new foods. Discourage students from making negative comments about new foods and healthy foods so that the child will learn to try new flavors.
- The school will integrate at least two *USDA's Team Nutrition* materials within the school curriculum. These include lesson plans, posters, interactive games, menu graphics, etc.

Nutrition Promotion

- All schools participating in the National School Lunch Program will utilize at least 5 of the following Smarter Lunchroom strategies:
 - ✓ Fruit is offered in at least two locations on all service lines, one of which is right before the point of sale
 - ✓ Sliced or cut fruit is offered
 - ✓ A variety of mixed whole fruits are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of stainless steel pans)
 - ✓ At least two kinds of vegetables are offered
 - ✓ Vegetables are incorporated into the main entrée at least monthly
 - ✓ White milk is offered in all beverage coolers
 - ✓ Alternative entrée options (i.e., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas
 - ✓ Students are offered a taste test of a new entrée at least once per year

- ✓ Students provide feedback (informal – “raise your hand if you like...” Or formal – focus groups, surveys) to inform menu development
- ✓ Students, teachers or administrators share the daily menu in announcements
- Nutrition education resources (at least two) will be provided to parents/guardians through handouts, website links, school newsletters, presentations and any other appropriate means available to reach parents/guardians.
- Schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess and other special programs or events. Each school will check 20 days for compliance.
- Each school will display at least 3 nutritional posters in the lunchroom.

Food and Beverage Marketing

- School ensures 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in school nutrition standards.
- Only vending machine covers that promote water are allowed

Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for all Foods and Beverages

Standards for all Foods Sold to Students during the School Day

School Lunch Program

- The district will follow the Federal, State, and local established nutrient standards for all foods and beverages during the school day, which is defined as 12:01 am through 30 minutes after the last bell 7CFR 210.11(a)(5).
- The food service program shall provide healthy food choices for students. In particular the program will:
 - ✓ Ensure that meals offered meet the federal nutrition standards.
 - ✓ Promote healthy food and beverage choices using smarter lunchroom techniques like creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in the school meals program.
 - ✓ Promote hydration by having drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.
 - ✓ Support healthy food choices that improve student health and well-being.
 - ✓ Ala carte choices and snacks in the lunchroom meet the Smart Snacks requirements.

Other Foods and Beverages Sold to Students during the School Day

- All foods and beverages sold to students outside the federally regulated child nutrition programs (referred to as “competitive” foods and beverages) must be consistent with USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. These standards apply in all areas where foods and beverages are sold which may include, but are not limited to fundraising events, school stores, snack carts and vending machines. All foods sold to students must be approved by the Director of School Nutrition and will be tracked for compliance.

Standards for all Foods Provided but Not Sold to Students during the School Day

- Teachers and staff will only use non-food or non-candy as a reward.
- It is encouraged that birthday, holiday and all other celebrations involve activities rather than food. If food must be included, healthy choices that align with the SMART SNACK standards should be supplied. Please see each school’s student handbook for more details.

Smart Snack Nutrition Standards

- Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight (have whole grain as first ingredient); OR
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, vegetable, dairy product, or protein food: OR
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup fruit and/or vegetable; AND
- The food must meet nutrient standards for calories, sodium, sugar, and fats.

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Snack</u>	<u>Entrée</u>
Calories	200 calories or less	350 calories or less
Sodium	200 mg or less	480 mg or less
Total Fat	35% of calories or less	35% of calories or less
Saturated Fat	Less than 10% of calories	Less than 10% of calories
Trans Fat	0 g	0 g
Sugar	35% by weight or less	35% by weight or less

Fruits, vegetables, and water with no added ingredients are always Smart Snacks!

2. Physical Activity

- Teachers and other school and community personnel will not arbitrarily use physical activity (i.e., running laps, push-ups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (i.e. recess, physical education) as punishment.
- Classroom health education will complement 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, such as watching television. Instruct at least three instances of this activity.
- All students in grades K-6 shall be provided with a daily recess.
- All students in grades 7-12 shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.
- Continue to require State mandated physical education through a variety of options.
- All students in grades 7-12 should be given one movement break during every long block class.

3. Other School-based Activities that Promote Student Wellness

- Students are permitted to have water in the classroom
- 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.
- Students are provided with a school environment that is conducive to healthy eating.
- Students are provided with adequate breakfast and lunch time to enjoy eating healthy foods with friends.
- Students are scheduled in lunch blocks that provide minimal wait time for school meals.
- Students are provided a school environment that is conducive to being physically active.
- Students are provided with opportunities for physical activity throughout the day.
- Students are encouraged to actively participate in recess.
- Students are not denied recess or other physical activity time in order to make up instructional time and/or as a form of discipline except when appropriate as a logical consequence.

- Students are provided with activities that coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health (such as teaching nutrition concepts in math or science) with consultation provided by the district's curriculum coordinators.

4. Implementation, Assessment, Documentation and Updates

Implementation

- The Districts direct the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Wellness Committee, to develop and maintain a plan to manage and coordinate the implementation of this wellness policy. The plan will delineate roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines for each school and will be measurable.

Assessment

- **Annual:** Progress on each measurable goal will be gathered from each school and reported on the SAU website in July for the previous school year.
- **Triennial:** The Wellness Committee will conduct an assessment of the wellness policy every three years. The assessment will determine building level compliance with the wellness policy, how the wellness policy compares to model wellness policies and progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.

Documentation

- The Wellness Committee will retain records to document compliance with the wellness policy requirements. Documentation maintained will include:
 - ✓ A copy of the current wellness policy,
 - ✓ Documentation on how the policy and assessments are made available to the public,
 - ✓ The most recent annual and triennial assessments of implementation of the policy,
 - ✓ Documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including who was involved in the process and how stakeholders were made aware of their ability to participate
- The required documentation will be maintained at the SAU Office, 4 Lund Lane, Hollis, NH 03049, 603-324-5999.

Updates

- **Policy Updates:** The Wellness Committee will update or modify the wellness policy as appropriate based on the results of the annual and triennial assessments, as our district priorities change, as community needs change, as wellness goals are met, as new federal or state guidance or standards are issued and as other issues provide a need for change. The wellness policy will be updated at least every three years following the Triennial Assessment.
- **Public Updates:** The Wellness Committee will inform the public annually about the local wellness policy, including its content and any updates to and about the policy. The annual and triennial assessments (to include progress toward meeting the goals of the policy) will also be made available to the public. The Wellness Committee will provide information on how the public can participate on the wellness committee and assist with the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. All public updates will, at a minimum, be located on the SAU website (SAU41.org).

1st Reading: November 4, 2020

2nd Reading: December 2, 2020