**707 Wellness Policy Number: 707**

**Date Created: 09/20/2022**

**Adopted: 09/20/2022**

**Reviewed:**

WELLNESS [Note: All school districts that participate in the National School Lunch

and School Breakfast Programs are required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of

2010 (Act) to have a wellness policy that includes standards and nutrition

guidelines for foods and beverages made available to students on campus during the

school day, as well as specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical

activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The Act

requires the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food

authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school

board, school administrators, and the public in the development, implementation,

and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The Act also requires a plan for

measuring implementation of the policy and reporting wellness policy content and

implementation issues to the public, as well as the designation of at least one person

charged with responsibility for the implementation and oversight of the wellness

policy to ensure the school district is in compliance with the policy.]

**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth methods that promote student wellness,

prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and assure 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 local, state, and federal standards.

General Statement of Policy

a. The school board recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical

activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness are essential

components of the educational process and that good health fosters student

attendance and learning.

b. The school environment should promote students’ health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.

c. The school district encourages the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the school district’s wellness policy.

d. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.

e. All students in grades K-6 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.

f. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

**Wellness Goals**

[Note: The Act requires that wellness policies include goals for nutrition promotion and

education, physical activity, and other

school-based activities that promote student wellness.]

**a. Nutrition Promotion and Education**

1. The school district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is:

a. offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;

b. part of health education classes, as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and

c. enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and field trips.

2. The school district will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy

selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the

reimbursable school meal programs, such as through a la carte/snack lines, vending

machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.

**b. Physical Activity**

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical

activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health and physical education will

reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy

lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities, such as watching television

2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and

3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes,

as appropriate.

**c. Communications with Parents**

1. The school district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary role in

promoting their children’s health and well-being.

2. The school district will support parents’ efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily

physical activity for their children.

3. The school district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.

4. The school district will provide information about physical education and other school-

based physical activity opportunities and will support parents’ efforts to provide their

children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines [Note: The Act requires that school districts have standards, selected by the school district, for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. For foods and beverages sold to students during the school day on school campus, the Act requires that school districts also have nutrition guidelines.]

**a. School Meals** [Note: The Act specifically requires that the wellness policy contain standards

and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day that are consistent with the meal requirements for lunches and afterschool snacks set forth in 7 C.F.R. § 210.10 and the meal requirements for breakfasts set forth in 7 C.F.R. § 220.8.]

1. The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that comply with

all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

2. Food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable,

nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.

3. Food service personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural

diversity of the student body in meal purchasing/planning.

4. Food service personnel and TRM staff will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

5. Food service personnel and TRM staff will take every measure to ensure that student

access to foods and beverages meets or exceeds all applicable federal, state, and local

laws, rules, and regulations and that reimbursable school meals meet USDA nutrition

standards.

6. Food service personnel shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.

7. The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

8. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing

before they eat meals or snacks.

9. The school district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat

after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times

during the school day.

10. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or

activities during mealtimes unless students may eat during such activities.

**b. School Food Service Program/Personnel**

1. The school district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the

school district’s food service program, whose duties shall include the coordination of

food service vendors who set guidelines and procedures for the selection of meals made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.

2. As part of the school district’s responsibility to operate a food service program, the

school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service

personnel in schools.

**c. Competitive Foods and Beverages**

1. All foods and beverages sold on school grounds to students, outside of reimbursable

meals are considered “competitive foods.” Competitive foods include items sold a la

carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores, and for in-school

fundraisers.

2. All competitive foods will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School (Smart Snacks)

nutrition standards and any applicable state nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart

Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of

healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the

development of healthy eating habits.

3. Before and Aftercare (child care) programs must also comply with the school district’s

nutrition standards unless they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in

which case they must comply with all applicable USDA standards.

**d. Other Foods and Beverages Made Available to Students**

1. Student wellness will be a consideration for all foods offered, but not sold, to students on the school campus, including those foods provided through:

a. Celebrations and parties. The school district may provide a list of healthy party ideas

to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. [Note: Healthy party

ideas are available from the USDA.]

b. Classroom snacks brought by parents: TRM staff will provide to parents a list of

suggested foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

2. Rewards and incentives: Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for

academic performance or good behavior (unless this practice is allowed by a student’s

individual education plan or behavior intervention plan) and will not withhold food or

beverages as punishment.

3. Fundraising: The school district will make available to parents and teachers a list of

suggested healthy fundraising ideas.

**e. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools**

1. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health

promotion.

2. Schools will restrict food and beverages marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards Wellness Leadership and Community Involvement

a. Wellness Coordinator; Antonio Kuklok, antonio.kuklok@threeriversmontessori.org

[Note: The Act requires that local school wellness policies identify the position of the local education agency or school official(s) responsible for the implementation and oversight of the local school wellness policy.]

1. The superintendent will designate a school district official to oversee the school district’s wellness-related activities (Wellness Coordinator). The Wellness Coordinator will ensure that each school implements the policy.

2. A designated school official, will ensure compliance within the school and will report to the Wellness Coordinator regarding compliance matters upon request.

[Note: The Act requires a description of the manner in which parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public are provided an opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the local school wellness policy.]

1. The Wellness Coordinator will permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy.

2. The Wellness Coordinator may hold meetings, from time to time, for the purpose of

discussing the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the

wellness policy. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the school district’s website and will be open to the public.

**Policy Implementation and Monitoring**

**a. Implementation and Publication**

[Note: The Act requires a description of the plan for measuring the implementation of the local school wellness policy.]

1. After approval by the school board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school district.

2. The school district will post its wellness policy on its website.

[Note: Per Minn. Stat. § 121A.215, when available, a school district must post its current local school wellness policy on its website.]

**b. Annual Reporting**

[Note: The Act requires that school districts inform the public about the content and

implementation of the local wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public on an annual basis.]

The Wellness Coordinator will annually inform the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public.

**c. Triennial Assessment**

[Note: The Act requires a triennial assessment of schools’ compliance with the wellness policy. The Act also requires school districts to inform the public about progress toward meeting the goals of the wellness policy by making the triennial assessment

available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner.]

1. At least once every three years, the school district will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and create a report that includes the following information:

a. the extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the school district are in compliance with the wellness policy;

b. the extent to which the school district’s wellness policy compares to model local wellness policies; and

c. a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the school district’s wellness policy.

2. The Wellness Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the triennial assessment.

3. The triennial assessment report shall be posted on the school district’s website or otherwise made available to the public.

**d. Recordkeeping**

[Note: The Act requires school districts to retain records to document compliance with the requirements of 7 C.F.R. § 210.30.] The school district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. The records to be retained include, but are not limited to:

1. The school district’s written wellness policy.

2. Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements,

including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public.

3. Documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy for each school under the school district’s jurisdiction efforts to review and update the wellness policy (including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the school district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the Wellness Committee).

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 121A.215 (Local School District Wellness Policy)

42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)

42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Local School Wellness Policy)

42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq. (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)

7 U.S.C. § 5341 (Establishment of Dietary Guidelines)

7 C.F.R. § 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)

7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)

Local Resources: Minnesota Department of Education www.education.state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Health, www.health.state.mn.us

County Health Departments Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, www.actionforhealthykids.org

United States Department of Agriculture, www.fns.usda.gov