

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

The board recognizes that childhood obesity has reached epidemic levels in Washington and throughout the country. Overweight children are at a higher risk for developing severe long-term health problems, and overweight children are affected by discrimination, psychological stress, and low self-esteem. However, research indicates that obesity and subsequent diseases are largely preventable through diet and regular physical activity. Research also indicates that becoming physically active and maintaining a regular physical activity program significantly reduces the risk of some obesity and some cancers, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Children who eat well-balanced meals and are healthy are more likely to learn in the classroom. The board supports increased emphasis on nutrition as well as physical activity at all grade levels to enhance the well-being of our district's youth. Therefore, it is the policy of the board to:

- A. Provide students access to nutritious food;
- B. Provide opportunities for physical activity and developmentally appropriate exercise; and
- C. Provide accurate information related to these topics.

(Insert here the local school nutrition and physical fitness policy developed with the appropriate stakeholders. The local policy must include the following provisions:

- ✓ *Goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that are designed to promote school wellness in a manner that the district determines is appropriate;*
- ✓ *Nutrition guidelines selected by the district for all foods available on each school campus during the school day with the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity;*
- ✓ *Assurances that guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the regulations and guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA);*
- ✓ *A plan for measuring how effectively the school wellness policy is being implemented, including designation of one or more persons at the district level or at each school with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school is meeting the policy; and*
- ✓ *Involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, the school board and school administrators, and the public in developing the wellness policy.*

Below are our recommendations. We have highlighted the provisions in our sample policy that reflect current laws regarding nutrition and physical fitness that you may want to include in your policy.)

The superintendent shall develop and implement a comprehensive district-wide nutrition program consistent with state and federal requirements for districts sponsoring the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. To implement the program, the superintendent shall adopt and implement a comprehensive curriculum on health, fitness and nutrition consistent with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs). The curriculum will provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate instruction for grades K-12. The input of staff, students, parents and public health professions in the development of the curriculum is encouraged.

Nutrition, health and fitness topics shall be integrated within the sequential, comprehensive health education curriculum taught at every grade level, kindergarten through grade 12, and coordinated with the district's nutrition and food services operation.

The district shall take a proactive effort to encourage students to make nutritious food choices. The superintendent shall ensure that:

- A. A variety of healthy food choices are available whenever food is sold or served on district property or at district-sponsored events;
- B. Schools shall regulate the sale or serving of foods or snacks high in fat, sodium or added sugars; and
- C. Nutritious meals served by the school nutrition and food services operation complies with state and federal law.

Nutrition

Nutrition Standards

The district shall provide school breakfasts and lunches which meet the nutritional standards required by state and federal school breakfast and lunch programs. Meals served in school before the end of the last lunch period shall conform to the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

(Note: Although the following language is not required, the district is required to establish nutrition guidelines for all foods.)

The superintendent shall establish rules for the sale of food during the school day to encourage the eating of nutritious breakfasts and lunches. Foods and beverages of minimal nutritional value, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shall not be sold or served on school premises until 30 minutes after the end of the last lunch period.

Any food sales of an occasional nature must have the prior approval of the principal. Vending machines shall be limited to only those that dispense items which are nutritionally healthful. No food or drink items shall be offered in vending machines unless they have been approved by the principal.

Food Services Program

The district supports the philosophy of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and shall provide wholesome and nutritious meals for children in the district's schools. The board authorizes the superintendent to administer the food services program, provided that any decision to enter into a contract with a private food service agency shall require the approval of the board. Expenditures for food supplies shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

Because of the potential liability of the district, the food services program shall not accept donations of food other than as provided in this policy without the expressed approval of the board. Should the board approve a food donation, the superintendent shall establish inspection and handling procedures for the food and determine that the provisions of all state and local laws have been met before selling the food as part of the school lunch menu.

Free And Reduced-Price Food Services

The district shall provide free and reduced-price breakfasts, lunches and milk to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and the laws and rules of the state. The district shall inform parents of the eligibility standards for free or reduced price meals. Reasonable efforts shall be made to protect the identity of students receiving such meals. A parent has the right to appeal any decision with respect to his/her application for free or reduced-price food services to the superintendent.

The district may provide free, nutritious meals to all children on test days, including students who do not qualify for free or reduced priced federal school meal benefits, however, the district

is responsible for the cost of providing meals to students who are ineligible for free and reduced priced meals.

The board of directors may establish a program whereby school meals may be provided to anyone other than students of the district at the greatest price charged any student plus an amount representing the portion of the lunch cost paid for from local, state and federal assistance (cash and food).

Surplus Commodities

The district shall use food commodities made available under the Federal Food Commodity Program for school menus.

Physical Education

Health and Fitness Curriculum

The superintendent shall adopt and implement a comprehensive health and fitness curriculum consistent with the EALRs. The curriculum will provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate instruction for grades K-12. Evaluation procedures will utilize classroom-based assessments or other strategies and will be in place by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

All students in grades one through eight are required to complete an average of one hundred instructional minutes per week of physical education. This includes instruction and practice in basic movement and fine motor skills, progressive physical fitness, and wellness activities through age-appropriate activities. All high school students are required to complete two credits of health and fitness. The district encourages all high schools to offer a variety of health and fitness classes for each grade in the high school.

Suitable adapted physical education shall be included as part of individual education plans for students with chronic health problems, other disabling conditions, or other special needs that preclude such student's participation in regular physical education instruction or activities.

In addition to required physical education, students at the elementary level should have the opportunity to participate in daily recess and physical activity. The district shall provide daily recess period(s) for elementary school students, featuring time for unstructured but supervised active play. The district is encouraged to provide adequate co-curricular physical activity programs, including fully inclusive intramural programs and physical activity clubs; and to promote the use of school facilities for physical activity programs offered by the school and/or community-based organizations outside of school hours.

Cross References:	Board Policy 2100	Instructional Program Offerings
	Board Policy 4260	Use of School Facilities
Legal References:	RCW 28A.230.040	Physical Education – Grades 1-8
	28A.230.050	Physical Education in High School
	28A.235	Surplus or Donated Food Commodities for School Hot Lunch Programs
	28A.235.120	Lunchrooms — Establishment and operation — Personnel for — Agreement for
	28A.235.130	Milk for children at school expense

28A.623.020	Nonprofit meal program for elderly — Authorized — Restrictions
69.04	Food, Drugs, Cosmetics, and Poisons
69.06.010	Food service worker permit
69.06.020	Permit exclusive and valid throughout state — Fee
69.06.030	Diseased persons — May not work — Employer may not hire
69.06.050	Permit to be secured within fourteen days from time of employment.
69.06.070	Limited duty permit
WAC 180-50-135	Physical Education – Grade school and high school requirement.
WAC 180-51-085	Physical Education Requirement-Excuse
7 CFR, Parts 210 and 220	
7 CFR, Part 245.5	

Management Resources: *Policy News*, December 2004 Nutrition and Physical Fitness
Update
***Policy News*, February 2005 Nutrition and Physical Fitness
Policy**

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