

8510 - WELLNESS

As required by law, the School Board establishes the following wellness policy for the Warsaw Community Schools 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 Corporation'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.

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 Corporation 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 integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
 3. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
 4. Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.
 5. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
 6. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school by engaging and involving families and the community.
 7. Nutrition education shall reinforce lifelong balance by emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate.
 8. 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.
 9. 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.

B. With regard to physical activity, the Corporation 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 stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
- c. 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.
- d. Planned instruction in physical education shall require students to be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least fifty percent (50%) of scheduled class time.
- e. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- f. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- g. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, bullying, or harassment of any kind.
- h. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.
- i. Planned instruction in physical education shall take into account gender and cultural differences.

2. **Physical Activity**

- a. Schools shall encourage families to provide physical activity outside the regular school day, such as outdoor play at home, participation in sports sponsored by

community agencies or organizations, and in lifelong physical activities like bowling, swimming, or tennis.

- b. All students in grades K - 5/6 shall be provided with a daily recess period at the discretion of the school principal and/or teacher.
- c. All students in grades 7 - 12 shall have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and intramural programs that emphasize physical activity.

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

- 1. The schools shall provide at least twenty (20) minutes daily for students to eat.
- 2. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
- 3. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
- 4. Schools may limit the number of celebrations involving serving food during the school day.
- 5. 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.
- 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 meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.
- 8. Nutrition Education information and Policy [8510](#) will be provided to parents and staff in the form of handouts, the District website, articles and information provided in the District or school newsletter, email, presentations that focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyles and any other appropriate means available to reach parents and staff.

D. With regard to nutrition promotion, the District shall encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day.

- E. By the 2014-2015 school year, all foods and beverages sold as fund raisers outside of the school meals program during the regular and extended school day shall meet the USDA Competitive Food regulations and the Alliance for A Healthier Generation's Competitive Foods and Beverages Guidelines.

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. Nutrition information for competitive foods available during the school day shall be readily available near the point of purchase.
- F. The school shall prepare and distribute to staff, parents, and after-school program personnel a list of snack items that comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- G. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- H. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the Corporation's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

The Superintendent and/or Board shall appoint the Corporation 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 the development, implementation, evaluation, and periodic update, if necessary, of the wellness policy.

The wellness committee shall be an ad hoc committee of the Board with members recruited and appointed annually.

The appointed Corporation wellness committee shall be responsible for accomplishing the following:

- A. assess the current environment in each of the Corporation's schools

- B. measure the implementation of the Corporation's wellness policy in each of the Corporation's schools
- C. review the Corporation's current wellness policy
- D. recommend revision of the policy, as necessary and
- E. present the wellness policy, with any necessary revisions, to the Board for approval or re-adoption if revisions are necessary

Before the end of each school year the wellness committee shall submit to the Superintendent and Board their report in which they describe the environment in each of the Corporation's schools and the implementation of the wellness policy in each school, and identify any revisions to the policy the committee deems necessary.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the work of the wellness committee, including their assessment of the environment in the Corporation, their evaluation of wellness policy implementation Corporation-wide, and the areas for improvement, if any, that the committee identified. The committee shall also report on the status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining goals established in the policy.

The Superintendent shall also be 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 post the wellness policy on the Corporation's website, including the assessment of the implementation of the policy prepared by the Corporation.

The Superintendent shall report on the Corporation's compliance with this policy and the progress toward achieving the goals set forth herein when requested to do so by the Board.

Review of this policy shall occur every three (3) years, by a committee appointed by the Board, consisting of a representative(s) of the Board, the administration, the food service provider, the parents, the students, and the public. The committee shall provide the Board with any recommended changes to this policy.

42 U.S.C. 1751, Sec. 204
42 U.S.C. 1771

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