

GUTHRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELLNESS POLICY

A significant amount of research exists showing the important roles nutrition and physical health play in student learning. To increase the likelihood for students to achieve their full academic potential, the district is committed to promoting health and wellness in all its school sites. This policy outlines the district's goals and procedures to ensure:

- Students have access to healthy foods at school in accordance with federal and state nutrition standards
- Students receive quality nutrition education to help them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and after school
- Individual school sites promote nutrition, physical activity and other behaviors which encourage wellness
- The community is welcome in the district's wellness program
- The smooth operation of the district's wellness program

The board encourages staff to engage in healthy eating and appropriate physical activity since staff members serve as role models for district students.

District Wellness Committee Membership and Leadership

The district's wellness program will be coordinated by a District Wellness Officer, to be assigned by the Superintendent. Each building principal will annually designate one (1) individual at their school site to be a liaison to the district's wellness committee which will meet at least once each semester. The name of the site liaison for each building will be publicized on the district's website, in school newsletters and by other means as is determined to be appropriate. Individual sites will publicize the name and contact information for their site liaison in school newsletters, as a part of routine parent updates, and through other appropriate methods.

Although the district's wellness program is coordinated by the District Wellness Officer, the program will be based on the work of the site safe and healthy schools committees. Committees will meet once each semester during the school year for the purpose of reviewing existing wellness activities, brainstorming new activities, reviewing and assessing the district's wellness policies and procedures, and related actions in order to make recommendations to the district wellness committee. The district wellness committee will then consider the recommendations and findings of site committees for the purpose of implementing appropriate activities, programs, and policies at the district level.

Membership on the site safe and healthy schools committees will be open to interested parents, students, health care providers, social service workers and school representatives. The committees will include, minimally, the site liaison, a school administrator, and a PE teacher.

Each site safe and healthy schools committee will also focus on providing wellness resources and strategies to teachers. This will be accomplished by making recommendations to the site principal regarding health, wellness, integrating kinesthetic learning and the overall connection between wellness and learning.

Assessment, Planning and Reporting

The District Wellness Officer is responsible for conducting a district assessment using tools available through the Centers for Disease Control. Once the assessment is completed, the committee will develop and maintain a plan to implement and manage the district's wellness program. The district's plan will be specific for each site (although the site plans may be substantially similar) and delineate the roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines for wellness activities. It will also include specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on campus, outside food/beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity and education and other wellness activities. The plan will be regularly assessed, reviewed and updated in light of district needs, emerging research and to ensure compliance with the latest local, state and federal standards.

The District Wellness Officer will ~~also~~ prepare a triennial progress assessment for the board. This assessment will include information such as the extent to which individual schools are in compliance with the policy, how the district's program compares with federal standards and a description of the overall progress in attaining the district's goals.

A copy of all assessments, plans and progress reports will be available through the District Wellness Officer. The District Wellness Officer will also maintain documentation demonstrating efforts to involve non-employees in the committee, minutes from the committee meetings, notes regarding wellness activities conducted, and information regarding how this information was made available to families and community members.

Open Communication

The District Wellness Officer, with input and assistance from site liaisons, is expected to make an effort to involve all district families, staff, and interested community members in the district's wellness initiatives. This includes providing information to these parties regarding health and wellness, the district's policy and plan, activities, involvement opportunities, school meal standards and available child nutrition programs. This information will be communicated through a variety of methods, including publication in newsletters and on the website, at enrollment, back to school nights and similar activities.

School Meals

The district participates in the following USDA child nutrition programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Participation in these programs is designed to ensure students receive plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free/low-fat milk to meet their nutrition needs. School meals are also calorically appropriate, moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat and have zero grams of trans fat.

Goals of the district's meal program include:

- Improving overall health
- Mitigating childhood obesity
- Modeling healthy eating in support of lifelong eating patterns
- Accommodating cultural food preference and special dietary needs

School meals:

- Are accessible to all students
- Are appealing and attractive to children

- Are served in clean and pleasant settings
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices by:
 - Displaying whole fruit options in attractive bowls or baskets
 - Making sliced or cut fruit available daily
 - Displaying daily fruit options in students' line of sight/reach
 - Creatively naming vegetable options
 - Bundling daily vegetable options into all grab and go meals
 - Training servers to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal
 - Placing white milk in front of other beverages in all coolers
 - Highlighting alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) on signs within all service / dining areas
 - Creating a reimbursable meal in all service areas (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.)
 - Using student surveys and taste testing opportunities to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas
 - Displaying student artwork in the service and/or dining areas
 - Marketing menu options through daily announcements

The district has taken the following steps in commitment to increasing student access to nutritious, appealing meals:

- Menus, with nutrition information, will be posted on the school website
- A certified nutrition professional will review/create menus
- Child nutrition professionals administer the district's program
- Special dietary needs will be accommodated
- Students will have at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch (from the time they are seated with their meal)
- Students are served lunch at a reasonable time of day
- Families will be informed about available child nutrition programs

Qualifications and Training

All school nutrition employees will meet or exceed USDA hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day, including during mealtimes. Students may also bring and carry approved water bottles – filled only with water – throughout the day.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

Foods and beverages sold during the school day apart from the school meal programs (competitive items) will, at a minimum, meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School standards.

Competitive items at celebrations and parties are not required to meet USDA Smart Snacks in School standards, although the District Wellness Officer is responsible for annually disseminating healthy and non-food party ideas to teachers, who will provide this information to parents who are bringing classroom snacks.

No food or beverage will be used as a reward or withheld as a punishment, unless specified in a qualified student's IEP.

The district will provide healthy food options for a variety of dietary needs at all meetings when food is provided.

Fundraising

Competitive items may be sold during the school day as a fundraiser as long as those items meet USDA Smart Snacks in School standards.

The District Wellness Officer will annually provide staff and PTA representatives a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

The district encourages schools to utilize fundraisers which promote physical activity (e.g. walk-a-thons, jump rope for heart, fun runs).

Health and Nutrition Education

Good nutrition will be encouraged throughout the school day using evidence-based techniques, including creative marketing for nutritious food choices. This will create a food environment which encourages healthy eating and participation in school meal programs. Wellness committee employees and child nutrition workers will regularly consult federal and state resources for current tips and resources to implement these requirements.

All health education teachers will provide opportunities for students to practice or rehearse skills taught in their curricula.

Physical Activity

The district's physical activities include PE classes, recess, and afterschool activities. Physical activity, including recess, will not be withheld as a punishment. This does not include participation in extracurricular activities which are privilege based. The district will maintain safe and appropriate grounds and facilities to promote active students.

Physical Education Classes

All district students, except those excused due to medical necessity, will participate in age-appropriate, sequential PE classes as required by state and federal curriculum standards.

All district elementary students will participate in 90-149 minutes of physical education per week throughout the school year.

During PE class, students must be moderately to vigorously active for at least half of the class time during most or all PE class sessions.

A health unit will be taught in PE classes at each site. The curriculum for this unit will include nutrition, physical activity and general health information.

All PE classes are taught by teachers who are certified to teach PE.

Recess (Elementary School Students)

All elementary sites will offer at least twenty (20) minutes of recess every school day, except when early dismissal or similar scheduling requirements make this impractical. Recess is separate from PE classes.

Physical Activity in the Classroom

To increase attention to learning and to promote wellness, all students will be provided with brief, periodic activity breaks for stretching when possible.