

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	CODE: JL Page: 1
SUBJECT: Student Wellness, Physical Activity, and Nutrition	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY:	September 14, 2006
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	2024
CANCELS POLICY CODE:	None
REVISION DATE:	March 21, 2019
JURISDICTION:	RSU 73 Schools

POLICY: Student Wellness, Physical Activity, and Nutrition

The Board recognizes that student wellness and good nutrition are related to students’ physical and psychological well-being and their readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that supports student wellness, healthy food choices, nutrition education, and regular physical activity. The Board believes that students who learn and practice healthy lifestyles in their formative years may be more likely to be conscious of the importance of good nutrition and exercise as adults, practice healthy habits, and reduce their risk of obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Nutrition Standards

The school unit will ensure that meals provided by its Food Services Program meet the nutrition standards established by federal regulations.¹

Assurance

This policy serves as assurance² that school unit guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act.

Nutrition Education

Nutrition education will be integrated into the instructional program through the health education program and/or the curriculum as aligned with the content standards of Maine’s system of Learning Results. Nutrition education should focus on skills students need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors. Students should receive consistent nutrition messages throughout the schools, including classrooms, cafeteria, and school-home communications.

¹ Title 7-U.S. Department of Agriculture, Chapter II-Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, Part 210-National School Lunch Program (7 C.F.R. § 210).

² See 42 U.S.C. § 1751(a)(2).

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The school unit will strive to provide all students developmentally appropriate opportunities for physical activity through physical education classes, recess periods for elementary school students, and extracurricular activities (clubs, intramural and interscholastic athletics). School programs are intended to build and maintain physical fitness and to promote healthy lifestyles. The schools should encourage parents to support their children's participation in physical activities, including available before- and after-school programs.

Other School-Based Wellness Activities

The schools, with prior approval of the Superintendent/designee, may implement other appropriate programs that support consistent wellness messages and promote healthy eating and physical activity.

The Board may approve policy, regulations or guidelines for refreshments served at parties or celebrations during the school day or for food as rewards, or may delegate the responsibility for such regulations or guidelines to administrators at the district or school level.

The school unit may develop programs that encourage staff to learn and engage in healthy lifestyle practices.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for the implementation of the wellness policy, for monitoring efforts to meet the intent of this policy, and for reporting to the Board on an annual basis.

Monitoring may include surveys or solicitation of input from students, parents, staff, and school administrators.

Reports may include, but are not limited to:

- A. The status of the school environment in regard to student wellness issues
- B. Evaluation of the school food services program and compliance with nutrition guidelines
- C. Summary or list of wellness programs and activities in the schools
- D. Feedback from students, parents, staff, school administrators and wellness committee
- E. Recommendations for policy, program or curriculum revisions

Appointment and Role of the Wellness Committee

The Board shall appoint a district-wide Wellness Committee comprised of at least one of each of the following:

- A. Board member;
- B. School administrator;
- C. Food Services Director/designee;

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- D. Student representative;
- E. Parent representative; and/or
- F. Community representative;
- G. School Nurse;
- H. At least one teacher

The Wellness Committee may also include:

- A. Guidance counselor;
- B. Social worker;
- C. Community organization or agency representative;
- D. Other staff, as designated by the Board; and/or
- E. Other persons, as designated by the Board

The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee in regard to student wellness issues and will be responsible for making recommendations related to the wellness policy, wellness goals, administrative or school regulations and practices, or raising awareness of student health issues.

With the prior approval of the Superintendent/designee, the Wellness Committee may survey parents, students and the community and/or conduct focus groups or community forums.

The Wellness Committee shall provide periodic reports to the Superintendent/designee and, as requested, to the Board.

Wellness Goals

The Board has identified the following goals associated with student wellness:

Goals for Nutrition Education

The schools will provide nutrition education that focuses on the skills students need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors.

The schools' nutrition education will be provided in a sequential, comprehensive health education program aligned with the content standards of the Maine system of Learning Results (or other sets of standards approved by the school board.)

Nutrition education will be integrated into other subjects as appropriate to complement, not replace, the health education program.

The school unit will provide foods that meet or exceed the federal nutrition standards, adequate time for students to obtain food and eat, lunch scheduled as close to the middle of the school day as possible, adequate space to eat, and a clean and safe meal environment.

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Consistent nutrition messages will be disseminated throughout the school unit in the classroom, the cafeteria, and school-home communications.

Appropriate professional development will be provided for food services staff.

Goals for Physical Activity

The physical education program will provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be physically fit and take part in healthful physical activity on a regular basis.

Students will develop motor skills and apply them to enhance their coordination and physical performance.

Students will demonstrate responsible personal and social behaviors in physical activity settings.

The physical education curriculum will be aligned with the content standards of the Maine system of Learning Results (or other sets of standards approved by the school board.)

Physical education classes will keep all students involved in purposeful activity for a majority of the class period.

Physical education classes will provide opportunity to learn for students of all abilities.

The schools will provide a physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable physical activity and fosters the development of a positive attitude toward health and fitness.

Schools will promote efforts to provide opportunities for students to engage in age-appropriate activities on most days of the week in both school and community settings.

The schools will provide opportunities for physical activity through a variety of before- and/or after-school programs including, but not limited to, intramural sports, interscholastic athletics and physical activity clubs.

Appropriate professional development will be provided for physical education staff and other staff involved in the delivery of such programs.

Goals for Other School-Based Activities

Goals of the wellness policy will be considered when planning school or classroom parties, celebrations or events.

Parents will be encouraged to provide nutritionally sound snacks from home and food for classroom parties or events.

Schools will encourage maximum participation in school meal programs.

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Schools will encourage parents and students to take advantage of developmentally appropriate community-based after-school programs that emphasize physical activity.

Student organizations will be encouraged to engage in fundraising projects that are supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.

School-based marketing of foods and beverages, such as through advertisements in school publications, school buildings, athletic fields, and other areas accessible to students should support the goals of the wellness policy.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. § 1751

Adopted: November 14, 2013

This is a required policy.

