

SUBJECT: STUDENT WELLNESS

Date of Original Policy:

Date of Next Review:

Cancels Policy Code:

Revision Date: **Second and final review 6.24.2021**

JURISDICTION:

RSU 73 Schools**POLICY: STUDENT WELLNESS**

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 the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs.

Other foods and beverages sold or available for sale to students during the school day ("competitive foods") will meet the federal Smart Snacks guidelines.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to students throughout the school day, including mealtimes, at every school.

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.

Nutrition Promotion

Schools will support healthy eating by students and encourage parents / guardians to provide healthy meals for their children by providing consistent nutrition messages and information and by cooperation with other agencies and organizations.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education / training requirements in the USDA standards for school nutrition professionals.

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RSU 73 Schools**Food and Beverages for Celebrations and Rewards**

The Board delegates to the Superintendent / designee the responsibility for guidelines for “healthy celebrations,” with the intent and encouragement that refreshments served at parties or celebrations during the school day, whether supplied by parents/guardians or staff, meet the “Smart Snacks” standards.

Food used as rewards in the instructional program must meet “Smart Snacks” standards. Food will not be withheld as a means of discipline.

Physical Activity

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/guardians to support their children’s participation in physical activities, including available before and after school programs.

Other School-Based 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 school unit may develop programs that encourage staff to learn and engage in healthy lifestyle practices.

Leadership

The Superintendent / designee shall be responsible for the oversight of development and implementation of the wellness policy in the schools. This includes ensuring that the school unit evaluates its schools’ compliance with the wellness policy and progress in attaining wellness goals and making required information available to the public.

The evaluation process must include a comparison of the wellness plan with model local wellness policies, and it may include surveys or solicitation of input from students, parents/guardians, staff, and school administrators, including suggestions for improvement in specific areas.

Annual Notification of Policy

The school unit will annually inform families and the public of basic information about the wellness policy, including its content, any updates, and implementation status. This information will be made available on the school unit’s website. It will include the contact information for the person coordinating the wellness committee as well as information about opportunities for the public to get involved with the wellness committee.

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RSU 73 Schools**Triennial Progress Assessments**

Every three years, the Director of School Nutrition will:

- Assess the extent to which the school unit's schools are in compliance with the wellness policy;
- Assess the extent to which the school unit's wellness policy compares to model wellness policies; and
- Provide a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the school unit's wellness policy.

The school unit's wellness committee will update the wellness policy based on the results of the triennial assessment and/or as:

- The school unit's priorities change;
- Community needs change;
- Wellness goals are met;
- New evidence-based health science emerges; or
- New or updated Federal or State regulations are issued.

Parent/Guardian Communications

The school unit will inform parents/guardians of improvements that have been made to school meal standards; availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply; the school unit's meal charging policy; and a list of healthy, celebration party ideas (including a list of foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks standards).

Food and Beverage Advertising in Schools and on School Grounds

Brand-specific advertising of food or beverages is prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds except for those meeting the standards for sale or distribution on school grounds in accordance with 20-A MRSA § 6662(2), i.e.; those that meet Smart Snacks standards.

The Board regards the following as "advertising" for the purpose of this policy:

- Brand names, logos, or tags, except those that are present as labels on the food or beverage product or its container;
- Displays, such as vending machine exteriors;
- Corporate brands logos, names, or trademarks on school equipment such as message boards or scoreboards;
- Corporate brands, logos, names, or trademarks on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other foodservice equipment;
- Corporate brands, logos, names, or trademarks on posters, book covers, or school supplies distributed or offered by the school unit;
- Advertisements in school and school unit publications or mailings; and
- Product coupons or free samples.

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“Advertising” does not include advertising on broadcast media or in print media such as newspapers and magazines, clothing with brand images worn on school grounds, or advertising on product packaging.

Corporate brand names, logos, and trademarks for companies that market products that comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards will not be prohibited solely because they offer some noncompliant food or beverage items in their product line.

Appointment and Role of the Wellness Committee

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

- A. Board member;
- B. School administrator;
- C. Food Service Director / designee;
- D. Student representative;
- E. Parent/Guardian representative; and/or
- F. Community representative.

The Wellness Committee may also include:

- A. School nurse and/or other school health professional;
- B. Physical education teacher;
- C. Guidance counselor;
- D. Social worker;
- E. Community organization or agency representative;
- F. Other staff, as designated by the Board; and/or
- G. 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 prior approval of the Superintendent / designee, the Wellness Committee may survey parents/guardians, 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.

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RSU 73 Schools**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.

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 at appropriate hours of the day, adequate space to eat, and a clean and safe meal environment.

Appropriate professional development will be provided for food services staff.

★ Goals for Nutrition Promotion

School unit staff will cooperate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for nutrition-related student projects and learning experiences.

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

Administrators and staff will be encouraged to model nutritious food choices and eating habits.

Schools will encourage parents / guardians to provide healthy meals and snacks for their children through take-home materials or other means.

Students will have access to clean and safe drinking water throughout the school day and during school activities.

Schools will promote the consumption of water as an essential element in maintaining overall health and wellness.

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RSU 73 Schools**★ Goals for Physical Activity**

The physical education program will provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be physically fit and to 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.

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

Physical education classes will provide opportunities 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.

The schools will provide facilities adequate to implement the physical education curriculum for the number of students served.

Schools may 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 may 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.

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Parents/guardians 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.

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

The schools will encourage parents/guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

As feasible, school physical activity facilities will be made available after school hours for student, parent/guardian, and community use to encourage participation in physical activity.

School administrators, staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members will be encouraged to serve as role models in practicing healthy eating and being physically active, both in the school environment and at home.

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.

The schools are encouraged to cooperate with agencies and community organizations to support programs that contribute to good nutrition and physical activity.

Legal References: 42 U.S.C. § 1751 (Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act)
7 CFR Parts 210 and 220
20-A MRSA § 6662

Adopted: September 14, 2006

Revised: November 14, 2013; March 21, 2019; June 2021