

policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OPERATIONS
8510

WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the Bedford Public Schools.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research concludes 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.

The Board, however, believes this effort to support the students' development of healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise cannot be accomplished by the schools alone. 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 District 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 included in the sequential, comprehensive Health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
 3. 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.

4. Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide, will be displayed in the cafeteria.

B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:

1. Physical Education

a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the standards and benchmarks established by the State.

b. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

2. Physical Activity

All students in grades 7-12 shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.

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

1. The schools shall provide at least thirty (30) 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 clean environments in which the students eat.

4. Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to, and be encouraged to use, the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.

5. 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.

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

The District will follow State and Federal guidelines regarding nutrition.

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, including but not limited to the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, 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 guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- C. 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.
- D. The food service program shall be administered by a director who is properly qualified, certificated, licensed, or credentialed, according to current professional standards.
- E. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- F. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual(s) charged with operational responsibility for verifying that the District meets the goals established in this policy.

The Superintendent shall appoint a District 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 development, implementation, evaluation and periodic update of the wellness policy. The Wellness Committee shall be an ad hoc committee with members recruited and chosen annually.

The Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:

- A. assessment of the current school environment;
- B. review of the District's wellness policy;
- C. presentation of the wellness policy to the school board for approval;
- D. measurement of the implementation of the policy;
- E. recommendation for the revision of the policy, as necessary.

Before the end of each school year the Wellness Committee shall recommend to the Superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the progress of the Wellness Committee and on its evaluation of policy implementation and areas for improvement, including status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining goals of policy.

The Superintendent is also 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 include information in the student handbook and on the District's website and post the policy on the District's website, including the Wellness Committee's assessment of the implementation of the policy.

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

42 u.s.c. 1771

7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220

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