

**Newark CCSD 66
Local Wellness Policy
Amended May 26, 2021**

Wellness Policy Leadership

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Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

Intent

The Board of Education of Newark Community Consolidated School District is committed to providing a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle and recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity and the capacity of students to develop and learn. The entire school environment shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence students' beliefs and habits and promote health and wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity. In addition, school staff shall be encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

Schools also have a responsibility to help students establish and maintain lifelong habits of being physically active. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, regular physical activity is one of the most important things people can do to maintain and improve their physical health, mental health, and overall well-being. Regular physical activity reduces the risk of premature death in general and of heart disease, high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes.

Public Involvement

NGSD 66 permits and encourages public involvement in local wellness policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, NGSD 66 shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in local wellness policy processes. Weekly E-News and

website posting of wellness policy and updates to the policy will be two of the methods used to notify the public of the opportunity to participate in these processes.

Parent Partnerships

- Schools shall support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. This support shall begin in elementary school and continue through middle and high school.
- Parents shall be provided information to help them incorporate healthy eating and physical activity into their student's lives. This information may be provided in the form of handouts, postings on the school/district website, information provided in school/district newsletters, presentations that focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyles and any other appropriate means available for reaching parents.

Updates

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate in order to fit the needs and goals of the Local Education Agency. The LEA shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy
- Through the following channels:

Website - www.ngsd66.org

Records

The Local Education Agency shall maintain record of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process

Goals for Nutrition Education

- Students in preschool through grade 8 shall receive nutrition education as part of a sequential program that is coordinated within a comprehensive health education curriculum. The program shall be designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to adopt healthy eating behaviors *and* aimed at influencing students' knowledge, attitudes and eating habits. Special emphasis should be placed on nutrition education in preschool through primary grades as eating habits are established at a young age. The curriculum shall be consistent with and incorporate relevant Illinois Learning Standards.⁵
- To maximize classroom time and to achieve positive changes in students' eating behaviors, nutrition education shall be integrated into the standards-based⁴ lesson plans of other school

subjects like math, science, language arts, physical education, health, family and consumer science and social sciences.

- To achieve positive changes in students' eating behaviors, it is recommended that a minimum of thirty-five contact hours of nutrition education opportunities be provided to students each year.⁶ Contact hours may include a combination of classroom instruction; nutrition education provided in the cafeteria; or health fairs, field trips and assemblies providing nutrition education.
- The nutrition education program shall include enjoyable interactive activities such as contests, promotions, taste testing, field trips and school gardens.

Goals for Nutrition Promotion

NGSD 66 shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

- It is recommended that food providers share information about the nutritional content of school meals and/or individually sold foods with students, family and school staff. (Attachment A).
- School meals shall be served in clean, safe and pleasant settings with adequate time provided for students to eat, at a minimum, in accordance with state and federal standards and guidelines.

Goals For Physical Activity

- Students in preschool through grade 8 shall participate in daily physical education that enables them to achieve and maintain a high level of personal fitness; emphasizes self-management skills including energy balance (calories in minus calories out); is consistent with state/district's standards/guidelines/framework; and is coordinated within a comprehensive health education curriculum.⁴ The curriculum shall be consistent with and incorporate relevant Illinois Learning Standards.⁵
- It is recommended that elementary students participate in physical education for a minimum of 200 minutes per week, and middle students participate for 215 minutes per week (National Association for Sport & Physical Education recommendations). Special emphasis should be placed on promoting an active lifestyle in preschool through primary grades as health habits are established at a young age. Accommodations shall be made for students with disabilities, 504 plans, and other limitations.
- Schools shall provide a daily supervised recess period to elementary students.
- Students shall be provided opportunities for physical activity through a range of before- and after-school programs such as intramurals, interscholastic athletics, and physical activity clubs.
- Because students should engage in a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity a day, the physical education program shall actively engage families as partners in providing physical activity beyond the school day.⁸

Goals For Other School-based Activities Designed To Promote Student Wellness

In order to further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, NGSD 66 commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

NGSD66 will make every effort to offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events shall be organized and promoted each year:

1. Kids Heart Challenge
2. Viking Mileage Club

Consistent School Activities and Environment – Healthy Eating

- Food providers shall involve families, students and other school personnel in choosing nutritious food and beverage selections for their local schools through surveys, committees, taste-testing and similar activities designed to provide input into the decision-making process.
- Food providers shall work with suppliers to obtain foods and beverages that meet the nutrition requirements of school meals and nutrition standards for those sold individually.
- Food providers shall work closely with school instructional staff to reinforce nutrition instruction and foster an environment where students can learn about and practice healthy eating.

Consistent School Activities and Environment –Physical Activity

- Physical education shall be provided by trained and well-supported staff that is certified by the state to teach physical education. All physical education teachers shall regularly participate in continuing education activities that impart the knowledge and skills needed to effectively promote enjoyable lifelong healthy eating and physical activity among students.
- The physical education program shall be closely coordinated with the other components of the overall school health program. Physical education topics shall be integrated within other curricular areas. In particular, the benefits of being physically active shall be linked with instruction about human growth, development, and physiology in science classes and with instruction about personal health behaviors in health education class.
- Schools are encouraged to limit extended periods of inactivity. When activities such as mandatory testing make it necessary for students to be inactive for long periods of time, it is recommended that schools give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.
- Schools are encouraged to develop community partnerships with other child-serving organizations such as park districts and YMCA's to provide students with opportunities to be active.
- Schools are encouraged to provide student and community access to and promote use of the school's physical activity facilities outside of the normal school day.
- Physical activity facilities and equipment on school grounds shall be safe.
- Schools are encouraged to work with the community to create a community environment that is safe and supportive of students walking or biking to school.

Food or Physical Activity as a Reward or Punishment

- School personnel shall be encouraged to use nonfood incentives or rewards with students (Attachment D) and shall not withhold food from students as punishment.

Nutrition Guidelines For All Foods And Beverages Available On School Campuses During The School Day

- All foods and beverages made available on campus shall comply with the federal, state and local food safety and sanitation regulations.
- For the safety and security of food, access to any area involved in storage, preparation or service of food on the school campus shall be limited to authorized personnel.
- Food providers shall offer a variety of age-appropriate, appealing foods and beverage choices and employ food preparation, purchasing and meal planning practices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans (e.g. provide a variety of fruits and vegetable choices; serve low-fat and fat-free dairy products; ensure that whole grain products are served).
- All foods and beverages sold individually (apart from the reimbursable school meal) on school campuses during the school day shall meet nutrition standards (Attachment A). This includes:
 - a la carte offerings in the food service program;
 - food and beverage choices in vending machines, snack bars, school stores; and
 - foods and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities.
- Nutritious and appealing foods and beverages, such as fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy foods and whole grain products, shall be available wherever and whenever food is sold or otherwise offered at school.

Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods

- All foods and beverages made available on campus shall comply with the federal, state and local food safety and sanitation regulations.
- Students, parents, school staff and community members bringing foods and beverages to school for parties/celebrations/meetings shall be encouraged to provide healthful options and shall be provided with a list of recommended food and beverage options (Attachment B).
- School-based organizations shall be encouraged to raise funds through the sale of items other than food (Attachment C).
- To reduce competition with nutritionally balanced school meals and enhance student safety, it is recommended that, to the extent practicable, students are not permitted to leave school grounds to purchase foods or beverages.

Food and Beverage Marketing

Partnerships between schools and businesses are encouraged and many commercial advertising relationships involve foods or beverages. To meet wellness objectives, it is recommended that commercial advertising relationships involve only foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards (Attachment A).

Guidelines For School Meals

- School meals served shall be consistent with the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and/or shall meet, at a minimum, the nutrition requirements and regulations for the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program and all applicable state and local laws and regulations.^{11,12,13}
- Food providers shall take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages on school campuses meets federal, state and local laws and guidelines.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All food service personnel shall have adequate pre-service training and regularly participate in professional development activities that provide strategies for providing tasty, appealing and healthy school meals; nutrition education strategies including coordination of classroom and cafeteria activities; and effective promotional techniques to encourage healthy eating habits.

Measuring Implementation & Community Involvement

- The district superintendent shall be charged with the operational responsibility for ensuring that each school meets the local wellness policy requirements.
- The district superintendent shall appoint a district wellness team/council that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and the public to oversee development, implementation and evaluation of the wellness policy. In addition, it is recommended that the district superintendent also appoints teachers (including preschool – grade 8, family and consumer science, physical education and health educators) and health professionals (school nurse, physician, dietitian, etc.) as members of the team/council.
- The terms of district wellness team/council members shall be staggered for continuity.
- The appointed district wellness team/council shall be responsible for:
 - creating and maintaining bylaws for operation;
 - assessment of the current school environment;
 - development of a wellness policy;
 - presenting the wellness policy to the school board for approval;
 - measuring the implementation of the wellness policy; and
 - recommending revision of the policy, as necessary.
- The principal of each campus shall be responsible for implementation of the local wellness policy and shall appoint a school-based evaluation team to develop and implement an annual evaluation plan.
- The school-based evaluation team shall evaluate policy implementation and identify areas for improvement. The evaluation team shall report their findings to the campus principal and develop with him/her a plan of action for improvement, as needed.
- The wellness team/council shall report to the superintendent and school board once every three year on the progress of the wellness team/council, recommend to the district superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary, and report on the status of compliance by the campuses.

Attachment A

Food/Nutrient	USDA Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School
Grain Items	Acceptable grain items must include 50% or more whole grains by weight, or have whole grains as the first ingredient.
Total Fats	Acceptable food items must have $\leq 35\%$ calories from total fat as served. <i>Reduced fat cheese (including part skim mozzarella): and nuts, seeds and nut/seed butters; products consisting of only dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats; seafood with no added fat; and whole eggs with no added fat are exempt from the total fat standard.</i>
Saturated Fats	Acceptable food items must have $< 10\%$ calories from saturated fat as served. <i>Nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters; products consisting of only dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats; reduced fat cheese (including part skim mozzarella) and whole eggs with no added fat are exempt from the saturated fat standard.</i>
Trans Fats	Zero grams of trans fat as served (≤ 0.5 g per portion).
Sugar	Acceptable food items must have $\leq 35\%$ of weight from total sugar as served. <i>Dried whole fruits or vegetables; dried whole fruit or vegetable pieces; and dehydrated fruits or vegetables with no added nutritive sweeteners; dried whole fruits, or pieces, with nutritive sweeteners that are required for processing and/or palatability purposes (i.e., cranberries, tart cherries, or blueberries) with no added fats; products consisting of only exempt dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the sugar standard.</i>
Calories	<p>Snack items and side dishes sold a la carte: ≤ 200 calories per item as served, including any added accompaniments.</p> <p>Entrée items sold a la carte: ≤ 350 calories per item as served including any added accompaniments</p>

Beverages	<p>Elementary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain water or plain carbonated water (no size limit); • Low fat milk, flavored or unflavored (≤8 fl oz); • Non-fat milk, flavored or unflavored (≤8 fl oz), including nutritionally equivalent milk alternatives as permitted by the school meal requirements; • 100% fruit/vegetable juice (≤8 fl oz); and • 100% fruit/vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners (≤8 fl oz). <p>Middle School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain water or plain carbonated water (no size limit); • Low-fat milk, flavored or unflavored (≤12 fl oz); • Non-fat milk, flavored or unflavored (≤12 fl oz), including nutritionally equivalent milk alternatives as permitted by the school meal requirements; • 100% fruit/vegetable juice (≤12 fl oz); and • 100% fruit/vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners (≤12 fl oz).
Caffeine	Elementary and Middle School: foods and beverages must be caffeine-free with the exception of trace amounts of naturally occurring caffeine substances.

This information is summarized from the USDA Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School, 2010, updated 8-2019 at: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/allfoods_summarychart.pdf

Attachment B

Healthful Food and Beverage Options for School Functions*

At any school function (parties, celebrations, meetings, etc.) healthful food options should be made available to promote student, staff and community wellness. Examples of nutritious food and beverages that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are listed below.

- Raw vegetable sticks/slices with low-fat dressing or yogurt dip
- Fresh fruit wedges – cantaloupe, honey dew, watermelon, pineapple, oranges, tangelos, etc.
- Sliced fruit – nectarines, peaches, kiwi, star fruit, plums, pears, mangos, apples, etc.
- Fruit salad
- Cereal and low-fat milk
- 100% fruit or vegetable juice
- Frozen fruit pops with fruit juice or fruit as the first ingredient
- Dried fruits – raisins, cranberries, apples, apricots
- Single serving applesauce or canned fruit in juice
- Peanut butter with apple wedges or celery sticks
- Fruit smoothies made with fat-free or low-fat milk
- Trail mix (dried fruits and nuts)
- Dry roasted peanuts, tree nuts and soy nuts (not coconut or palm nuts)
- Lean meats and reduced fat cheese sandwiches (use light or reduced fat mayonnaise in chicken/tuna salads)
- Party mix (variety of cereals, nuts, pretzels, etc.)
- Pretzels or reduced fat crackers
- Baked chips with salsa or low-fat dip (Ranch, onion, bean, etc.)
- Low-fat muffins (small or mini), granola bars and cookies (graham crackers, fig bars)
- Mini bagels with whipped light or fat-free cream cheese
- Pasta salad
- Breadsticks with marinara
- Fat-free or low-fat flavored yogurt & fruit parfaits
- Fat-free or low-fat pudding cups
- Fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products (string cheese, single-serving cottage cheese, cheese cubes)
- Flavored soy milk fortified with calcium
- Pure ice cold water

**This list is not all inclusive and is meant only to provide parents and school staff with guidance for healthier food and beverage choices. Not all food and beverage items on this list will necessarily meet district nutrient standards (Attachment A) as items vary in sugar, fat and calorie content from brand to brand. However, all of the items in the list are believed to be consistent with the intent of the wellness policy to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.*

Attachment C

Fundraising Ideas

- Raffle
- Candles
- Book sale
- Cookbook
- *Car wash
- *Walkathons
- Student artwork
- Stuffed animals
- Stadium pillows
- School photo ID
- Educational games
- Holiday decorations
- Shopping donation programs
- School mascot temporary tattoos
- Faculty and/or student talent show
- Teacher/student sports competition
- Auction of donated goods and services
- Balloon bouquets for special occasions
- Bottled water with the schools own label
- Refillable water bottle with the school logo
- Glow in the dark novelties (popular at dances)
- Greeting cards, especially designed by students
- School calendars with all the important school dates on them
- Party bags for kids' birthday parties filled with non-food novelties
- Sale of flowers and balloons for the family to purchase for student graduates
- School spirit items — tee-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, lanyards, pennants, bracelets and caps
- Growing and/or selling flowers and plants for holidays such as Valentine's Day and Mother's Day

*These fundraisers have the added benefit of promoting physical activity for students.

**This list is not all inclusive and is meant only to provide parents and school staff with guidance.*

Attachment D

Classroom Rewards

- A smile
- Going first
- Verbal praise
- Sit by friends
- Teaching the class
- Helping the teacher
- Enjoy class outdoors
- A field trip for the class
- Choosing a class activity
- Walk with a teacher during lunch
- Eat lunch outdoors with the class
- Eat lunch with a teacher or principal
- Extra credit or class participation points
- Taking care of the class animal for a day
- Have lunch or breakfast in the classroom
- A photo recognition board in a prominent location in the school
- A note from the teacher to the student commending his or her achievement
- A phone call, email, or letter sent home to parents or guardians commending a child's accomplishment
- Recognition of a child's achievement on the school-wide morning announcements or school website
- Ribbon, certificate in recognition of achievement or a sticker with an affirming message (e.g. "Great job")
- Take a trip to the treasure box (filled with: stickers, temporary tattoos, pencils, pens, highlighters, sidewalk chalk, notepads, erasers, bookmarks, etc.)

**This list is not all inclusive and is meant only to provide parents and school staff with guidance.*

References

1. Prevalence of Overweight among Children and Adolescents: United States, National Center for Health Statistics. www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/overwght99.htm
2. Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 [Public Law 108-265, Sec. 204]. <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss>
3. Public Act 094-0199. www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=094-0199
4. Illinois School Code. www.ilga.gov/legislation
 - a. Daily Physical Ed Requirements - Section 27-6 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-6]
 - b. Rules for Comprehensive Health Education – (23 Ill. Adm. Code 253) issued pursuant to the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act [105 ILCS 110].
5. Illinois Learning Standards, Illinois State Board of Education, 1997. www.isbe.state.il.us/ils
6. Nutrition services: An essential component of comprehensive school health programs – Joint Position of the American Dietetic Association, Society for Nutrition Education, and the American School Food Service Association, *Journal of Nutrition Education* 35:2, 2003.
7. Executive Summary, Shape of the Nation 2001. National Association of Sports and Physical Education (NASPE), 2001. www.aahperd.org/naspe/pdf_files/shape_nation.pdf
8. Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Agriculture, 2005. www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines
9. Fit, Healthy and Ready to Learn, National Association of State Boards of Education, 2000.
10. MyPyramid.gov, United States Department of Agriculture. www.mypyramid.gov
11. Minimum School Meals Requirements – section 9(f)(I), 17(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(f)(I), 1766(a)0
12. Minimum School Meals Requirements - subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 of the Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1779)
13. Illinois School Food Service – Ill. Adm. Code Section 305.

RESOURCES FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Fit, Healthy and Ready to Learn, National Association of State Boards of Education. 2000. www.nasbe.org/HealthSchools/index.html
- HealthierUS School Challenge, United States Department of Agriculture. www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/criteria_instructions.pdf
- Mercedes Independent School District Student Nutrition/Wellness Plan. 2004. www.mercedes.k12.tx.us/menus/Nutrition%20PolicyR10-8-04.pdf
- Model Local School Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition, National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, 2005. www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org/WellnessPolicies.html
- School Nutrition Association Local Wellness Policy Guidelines, School Nutrition Association. 2005. www.schoolnutrition.org/Index.aspx?id=1075