



SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the promotion of wellness in our school.

Lead Academy is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Health and wellness instruction will take place in an environment that is mentally, socially, and physically healthy which will promote practices, skills and attitudes for healthy living.

Therefore it is the policy of the board to ensure the following:

- Child Nutrition Programs/ Health and Wellness Education
- School lunch and breakfast programs will comply with local state and federal requirements and will be accessible to all children.
- To include healthy options for student selection when foods and beverages are sold by the school during the school day.
- Assure that any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School Nutrition standards.
- All foods made available on campus will adhere to food safety and security.
- The school environment will be safe, comfortable and pleasing and will allow ample time and space for eating meals.
- To integrate nutrition education into all appropriate curriculum areas.
- Students will be given opportunities for physical activity during the school day through physical education classes, daily recess periods for elementary school students, physical activity breaks and the integration of physical activity into the academic curriculum.
- Health education will reflect the South Carolina academic standards for health and safety education including age appropriate instruction.
- Employ qualified child nutrition professionals to provide all children with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.
- Provide opportunities for ongoing professional training and development for food service staff, teachers and volunteers on the importance of physical activity for young children and the relationship of physical activity and good nutrition to academic performance and healthy lifestyles, the strong impact of emotional health and wellness on student success, and how access to school and community resources that can help you in a crisis.
- Work continuously to improve school culture and promote connectedness among students and staff to help reduce risk of violence, bullying, suicide, and substance abuse.
- Help students understand the warning signs of depression and self-destructive behaviors, to know the risk factors and warnings of suicide, and to be aware of individuals or other school resources that are available to aid and support themselves or others.

- Expect all staff and students to behave respectfully and kindly to each other so that students develop the level of trust necessary to feel comfortable approaching an adult when dealing with problems.
- The school will maintain a Coordinated School Health Advisory Council (CSHAC) to assess, plan, implement and monitor school health policies and programs. The council will be comprised of members of the community, school representatives, students, parents, food service employees, health and physical education coordinators, and board members.

Food and Beverage Availability

Lead Academy is committed to serving healthy meals to students, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams trans fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer’s specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns, and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Lead Academy participates in the USDA child nutrition program through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and is committed to offering school meals that:

- 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

Students in grades Pre-K to fifth grade will be provided a minimum of 20 minutes to consume lunch after they have received their food.

Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior. Additionally, schools will not withhold food or beverages as punishment. Teachers are provided with a list of alternative ideas for behavior management.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. The school will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive foods and beverages

The school is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on school campuses during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. The school will establish standards for foods made available, but not sold, during the school day on school campuses.

All foods that meet the competitive food standards may be sold at fundraisers on the school campus during school hours. The number of fundraisers exempt from the nutrition requirements will be determined by the South Carolina State Board of Education.

School Goals for Health and Wellness

Nutrition promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents/legal guardians, students, and the community.

The school will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus and will encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through the use of evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques and through adherence to a policy of 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meeting the USDA evidence-based marketing strategies in School nutrition standards.

Nutrition education

The school will teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by all students. Lead Academy will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that fulfills the following criteria:

- fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors such as acquiring skills for reading food labels and menu planning
- is part of a sequential comprehensive standards-based health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise)
- links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, and other school foods and nutrition-related community services
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing
- includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff

Physical activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program which includes quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during, and after school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement. Schools may promote opportunities for physical activity via in school announcements, newsletters, posters, etc. Lead Academy is committed to providing these opportunities, and the school will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education.

The school encourages the use of physical activity as a reward when feasible. Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks, or physical education) will not be withheld as punishment for any reason. ***This does not include participation on***

sports teams or with other sports-related after school activities, nor does it include participation on sports teams with specific academic requirements.

Physical education

Lead Academy will provide students with physical education using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits and incorporate essential health education concepts. The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The district will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

Community health promotion and family engagement

Lead Academy will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts. The school will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the district's website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

District Wellness Committee/Coordinated District Health Advisory Council

Lead Academy will convene a wellness committee that meets at least once per year to establish district wellness goals for and to oversee school health and safety policies and programs including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. Wellness committee members will include, to the extent possible, parents/legal guardians, students, representatives of district nutrition services, physical education teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public. The designated officer for ensuring district compliance with the wellness policy and oversight of the committee will be Carlie Smith, Operations Coordinator, casmith@myleadacademy.com.

Annually, the school will notify the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and share any updates to the policy. The school will also publicize the name and contact information of the Operations Coordinator, with information on how the public can become involved with the wellness committee or obtain additional information on the wellness policy. The information for this annual review can be gathered through and utilized in the district's strategic planning process.

Every three years, the school will assess its compliance with the policy, how it compares to model wellness policies published by state and federal agencies, and the schools progress in attaining the goals of the policy. The results of this assessment will be made available to the public to showcase the wellness efforts being made by the district and how the school is in compliance with the wellness policy. Following this assessment, the district will update or modify the policy as necessary and share these changes with the public.

Recordkeeping

The school will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. Documentation maintained by the district will include but will not be limited to:

- the written wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public
- documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the district wellness committee (e.g., copy of meeting notice posted on the district website)
- documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements
- the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy has been made available to the public

Food and Beverage Marketing

The school is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The school strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on district property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the district is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the district to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the district's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on school campuses during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students. These standards do not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting events or any other events, including school fundraisers.

Contracts for goods or services that include a food and beverage marketing component executed after June 30, 2017, must conform to federal nutrition standards. No exceptions will be granted.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing includes any oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- brand names, trademarks, logos, or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container
- displays, such as on vending machine exteriors
- corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment that is displayed during the school day, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards, or backboards
- corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book

covers, pupil assignment books, or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered, or sold by the school

- advertisements in school publications or school mailings
- free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product

Legal References:

A. Federal Law:

1. Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-296, 124 Stat. 3183.

B. Federal Regulations:

1. National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Goods Sold in School, 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220 (2016).
2. Local School Wellness Policy Implementation, 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220 (2016).

C. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-10-10, *et seq.* - Physical education, school health services, and nutritional standards.
2. Section 59-10-330 - Coordinated School Health Advisory Council (CSHAC).
3. Section 59-10-350 - Length of elementary school lunch period.
4. Section 59-32-30(A)(1)-(3) - Comprehensive health education program; guidelines and restrictions.

D. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-168 - Nutrition standards for elementary (K-5) school food service meals and competitive foods.
2. R43-238 - Health education requirements.

E. State Board of Education Academic Standards:

1. 2014 SC Academic Standards for Physical Education.
2. 2009 Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education.
3. 2015 SC "Smart Snacks" and Exempt Fundraisers Memorandum.

F. Other References:

1. National Standards for Physical Education, SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators)
2. National Health Education Standards, Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards.
3. USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
4. USDA *Guide to Smart Snacks in School* (2016).
5. USDA Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs (2015).