



The Douglas Unified School District Wellness Committee Manual meets the Federal mandate PL 108-265 and the ASBA Policy JL-RB & JL-RA, Student Wellness, and Policy EFE, Competitive Food Sales/Vending Machines. The purpose of the Wellness Policy is to provide school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. The Food Service Operation provides breakfast and lunch in accordance with the National School Lunch Program and the Arizona Nutrition Standards. Rewards and incentives should be given careful consideration and food is not to be used as a punishment. Similarly, if food is included in recognition of academic performance, it should be used in the general celebration of the achievement and not as a reward. Nutrition education is to be offered to all students and school counselors are to be prepared to recognize conditions such as obesity and eating disorders and be able to refer them to the appropriate services. Recess is encouraged to be offered prior to lunch. Schools should provide adequate physical activity for students and ensure that students are moderately to vigorously active at least 50% of the time while participating in physical education.

-Board Approved on September 6, 2022

Douglas Healthy School Environment Model Policy

Introduction

- Arizona ranks 25 in overall prevalence with 30.6% of children considered either overweight or obese. (www.childhealthdata.org)
- The Arizona prevalence of overweight and obese children has risen since 2003. (www.childhealthdata.org)
- Children and adolescents diagnosed with type 2 diabetes are generally between 10 and 19 years old, obese, have a strong family history for type 2 diabetes, and have insulin resistance. (<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/cda2.htm>)

The research listed above presents an alarming reality that today's schools, communities, and families are faced with addressing. Recognizing the value of school meals and good nutrition, the Arizona State Team of the Action For Healthy Kids Coalition urges school educators, administrators and school board officials to create healthy school environments through adopting sound nutrition-food service environment policies. This Arizona "model" nutrition policy has been developed to protect the health of Arizona's school children so they may achieve their full academic potential.

The school nutrition-food service environment is one of the three initiatives identified by Action For Healthy Kids for providing a school environment that models health promotion and takes action to combat the rising health risks in children. The normal school day is for most children nearly one-half of their non-sleep time day. The school nutrition-food service environment is an important and critical partner with physical activity and nutrition education in improving children's health.

All Arizona public, private and charter schools should endeavor to voluntarily adopt the policy in part or as a whole, recognizing that the maximum benefit will be achieved by adopting the policy in whole.

Resources and Definitions

Action For Healthy Kids Coalition - (AFHK) is a nationwide initiative dedicated to improving the health and educational performance of children through better nutrition and physical activity in schools. This effort represents a response to our nation's epidemic of overweight, sedentary, and undernourished children and adolescents. AFHK is composed of 51 State Teams and a national coordinating and resource group. AFHK fosters sharing and collaboration among diverse stakeholders to encourage and facilitate meaningful change in schools. Guidance and direction is provided by more than 35 national organizations and government agencies representing education, health, physical activity and nutrition. <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/index.htm>

Center For Disease Control and Prevention - (CDC) is recognized as the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people - at home and abroad, providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and promoting health through strong partnerships. <http://www.cdc.gov/default.htm>

Overweight - a state in which weight exceeds a standard based on height; having a body mass index of 25-29.9 or greater. 85th percentile to < 95 percentile.

Obesity - The CDC uses growth charts BMI-for-age to assess overweight in children (2-20 years old). 95th percentile is considered obesity.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans - dietary recommendations for healthy Americans age 2 years and over about food choices that promote health specifically with respect to prevention or delay of chronic diseases.

Physical Activity - CDC defines physical activity as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that results in an expenditure of energy.

National School Lunch Program – (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

Normal School Day - Time period spanning from the first bell of the day that begins the first-class period to the last bell of the day ending the final class period. For schools that have multiple schedules in place, the school day for each schedule ends 7 hours after the first bell indicating the start of the initial class of the first session.

Smart Snack – refers to the national nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold outside of the federal reimbursable school meal programs during the school day. These items are called “competitive foods” because they can compete with participation in school meal programs.

Purpose and Goals

The Douglas Unified School District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. All students shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious and enjoyable food choices for a lifetime. In addition, all school staff are encouraged to model healthy eating behavior as a valuable part of daily life. School leaders shall prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive plan to encourage healthy eating that includes:

- A food service program that employs well-prepared staff who efficiently serve appealing choices of nutritious foods;
- Pleasant eating areas for students and staff with adequate time for unhurried eating;
- An overall school environment that encourages students to make healthy food choices;
- Opportunities and encouragement for staff to model healthy eating habits;
- Services to ensure that students and staff with nutrition-related health problems are referred to appropriate services for counseling or medical treatment;
- Strategies to involve family members in program development and implementation.
- Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity

The school nutrition program shall make effective use of school and community resources and equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in cultural norms.

A. Financial Management

I.A.1 It is acknowledged that the feeding of children is primarily a family responsibility. To supplement their efforts, every school shall operate a food service program to ensure that all students have affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to stay healthy and learn well.

I.A.2 The food service program shall aim to be financially self-supporting. However, the program is essential educational and support activity, and budget neutrality or profit generation must not take precedence over the nutritional needs of the students. If subsidy of the food service fund is needed, it should not be from the sale of foods that have minimal nutritional value and/or compete nutritionally with program meals.

B. Program Requirements

I.B.1 During each school day the food service program shall offer breakfast and lunch under the nutritional guidelines of the USDA's National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. Additionally, the food service program shall offer snacks based on the

nutrient guidelines in the USDA's After School At-Risk Snack Program to those students in after-school education or enrichment programs. Douglas Unified School District promotes breakfast before school at all school district sites. Each school shall encourage all students to participate in these meal opportunities. Specifically, the Child Nutrition Director will ensure that meal applications in English and Spanish are distributed to ALL students before or on the first day of school (*if applicable*). Also, as students register throughout the school year, the new student center gives the parents free meal applications (*if applicable*). The free lunch program will be announced on the local radio station and notices will be posted at the DES agency and in other local places. The school shall make efforts to ensure that families are aware of need-based programs for free or reduced-price meals and those eligible families are encouraged to apply. The Douglas Unified School District shall maintain the confidentiality and privacy of students and families applying for or receiving free or reduced-price meals. A nutritious breakfast shall be provided for all students daily.

I.B.2 The school food service program shall operate in accordance with the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1996 as amended and applicable laws and regulations of the state of Arizona. Schools shall offer varied and nutritious food choices that are in compliance with ALL NSLP regulations for school meal standards for all food and beverages that are provided to students on campus during the school day. Menus should be planned with input from students, family members, and other school personnel and should take into account students' cultural norms and preferences. Food pricing strategies shall be designed to encourage students to purchase nutritious items. Procedures shall be in place for providing families the nutritional information and the ingredients of the foods served.

I.B.3 The school food service program shall monitor the nutrient breakdown of their menus. Regardless of menu planning format of nutrient or food-based, schools shall analyze the menus offered to students using nutrient analysis software to ensure that USDA guidelines are being met. Nutritional information shall be printed on the monthly menus which are distributed to the elementary and middle schools. Nutrition information shall include but not be limited to calories, carbohydrates, sodium, protein, total fat, and saturated fat per monthly average. The same nutrition information shall be posted on the DUSD website including for the high school.

I.B.4 Link to USDA's school meal pattern has been added to the DUSD website to promote clarity and transparency for the parents and community.

I.B.5 The school food service program shall have in place a procedure for handling leftover food production. A sharing table will be provided in each school cafeteria for students to place unwanted packaged foods for other students to take at no additional cost. Leftover foods shall be returned to the central kitchen where it is bagged and boxed to be donated to the local food bank and to local shelters or other nonprofit organizations.

C. Staffing

I.C.1 Each district/school shall employ a food service director, who is properly qualified, certified, and/or credentialed according to current professional standards, to administer the school food service program and satisfy reporting requirements.

DUSD Food Service Director has a bachelor's degree in dietetics and has/will have the 8 hours of food safety training certificate within 30 days of being hired as required by ADE and the county health department.

I.C.2 Dining room supervisory staff (teachers, aids, janitorial staff, etc.) shall receive appropriate training in how to maintain safe, orderly, and pleasant eating environments based on available funds.

I.C.3 Food service directors and staff are encouraged to inform and collaborate with classroom teachers about the school nutrition-food service environment and nutrition education.

D. Adequate Eating Space and Time and Appropriate Use of Food

I.D.1 Students and staff shall have adequate space to eat meals in pleasant surroundings and shall have adequate time to eat, relax, and socialize. All schools shall have closed campuses. Safe drinking water and convenient access to facilities for hand washing and oral hygiene must be available during all meal periods and throughout the day.

I.D.2 Rewards and incentives for academic performance should be given careful consideration as to the messages they send to students receiving them. If food is included in recognition of academic performance, it should be used in the general celebration of the achievement, not as a reward.

I.D.3 Food shall not be withheld from students as punishment.

E. Food Safety

I.E.1 Schools should encourage classes to order foods for classroom parties from the school's food service program or sources providing food in compliance with the FDA Food Code 2017 to ensure compliance with food safety and sanitation regulations. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines must be implemented to prevent food illness in schools.

I.E.2 All food service equipment and facilities must meet applicable local and state standards concerning health; safe food preparation; handling, and storage; drinking water; sanitation; and workplace safety.

I.E.3 All food service personnel shall have adequate pre-service training and must hold a State issued or equivalent training certificate. All food service personnel shall have adequate pre-service training and one person at each school shall have a ServeSafe Managers Food Safety certificate and all staff receives 4 hours of food service training per year.

I.E.4 Because DUSD has a permit to be a public food service establishment, no homemade foods shall be stored, prepared, or served to the public which includes classroom celebrations, fundraisers, according to Cochise county Health Department to be in compliance with Arizona Food Code 2017.

II. Nutrition Education

A. Instructional Program Design

II.A.1 Nutrition education topics shall be integrated within the sequential, comprehensive health education program taught at every grade level, pre-kindergarten through twelfth. The nutrition education program shall focus on students' eating behaviors be based on theories and methods proven effective by published research, and be consistent with the state's/district's health education standards/guidelines/framework. Nutrition education shall be designed to help students learn:

- a. Nutritional knowledge, including but not limited to the benefits of healthy eating, essential nutrients, nutritional deficiencies, principles of healthy weight management, the use and misuse of dietary supplements, and safe food preparations, handling, and storage;
- b. Nutrition-related skills, including but not limited to planning a healthy meal, understanding and using food labels, and critically evaluating nutrition information, misinformation, and commercial food advertising; and
- c. How to assess one's personal eating habits, set goals for improvement, and achieve those goals.

II.A.2 Nutrition education instructional activities shall stress the appealing aspects of healthy eating and be participatory, developmentally appropriate, and enjoyable. The program shall engage families as partners in their children's education.

II.A.3 The Wellness Policy Committee shall assess all nutrition education curricula and materials for accuracy, completeness, balance, and consistency with the state's/district's educational goals and standards. Materials developed by food marketing boards or food corporations shall be examined for inappropriate commercial messages.

B. Staff Qualifications

II.B.1 Staff responsible for nutrition education shall be adequately prepared and regularly participate in professional development activities to effectively deliver the nutrition education program as planned. Preparation and professional development activities shall provide basic knowledge of nutrition, combined with skill practice in program-specific activities and instructional techniques and strategies designed to promote healthy eating habits.

C. Educational Reinforcement

II.C.1 School instructional staff shall collaborate with agencies and groups conducting nutrition education in the community to send consistent messages to students and their families. Guest speakers invited to address students shall receive appropriate orientation to the relevant policies of the school/district.

II.C.2 School staff are encouraged to cooperate with other agencies and community groups to provide opportunities for student volunteer work related to nutrition, such as assisting with food recovery efforts and preparing nutritious meals for house-bound people. School officials

should disseminate information to parents, students, and staff about community programs that offer nutrition assistance to families.

D. Staff As Role Models.

II.D.1 School staff are encouraged to model healthy eating behaviors. Schools should offer wellness programs that include personalized instruction about healthy eating and physical activity.

E. Coordination of Programs

II.E.1 The food service program shall be closely coordinated with nutrition instruction. The school cafeteria shall serve as a laboratory to allow students to apply critical thinking skills taught in the classroom. Food service staff shall also work closely with those responsible for other components of the school health program to achieve common goals. *The Comprehensive Health Education Standards for Arizona Schools should be implemented throughout the entire school environment. These standards can be viewed at <http://www.ade.az.gov/>*

II.E.2 School culinary, vocational tech, art programs, etc. shall provide a consistent learning experience that reinforces the objectives of the school food service program and will comply with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans where appropriate.

II.E.3 DUSD Schools offer meals during the summer and coordinate with other agencies and community groups to operate, or assist with operating, a summer food service program for children and adolescents who are eligible for federal program support. After-school snacks are also offered to students participating in 21st Century program, and tutoring.

II.E.4 Each DUSD school shall conduct and maintain the School Health Index

F. Nutrition-Related Health Problems and Modified Diets

II.F.1 School counselors and school health services staff shall consistently promote healthy eating to students and other staff. These professionals shall be prepared to recognize conditions such as obesity, eating disorders, and other nutrition-related health problems among students and staff and be able to refer them to appropriate services.

II.F.2 The school food service program will comply with USDA's disability requirements and ADE regulations for modified diets. The school food service program offers ethnic dietary options and requests as recommended by USDA.

III. Food Choices at School and a Healthy School Environment

A. The School Environment

III.A.1 Recess

III.A.1.a Careful consideration of the school lunch environment shall be taken into account when scheduling recess. The importance of physical activity for children of all ages and supervised playtime for younger children shall be duly

acknowledged. *Center for Disease Control defines physical activity as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that results in an expenditure of energy.* It is encouraged that schools provide recess before lunch or at a different time than lunch at all appropriate sites. The Comprehensive Health Education Standards specifically detail and address Physical Activity Standards for Arizona Schools. These standards can be viewed at <http://www.ade.az.gov/>. For further standards on physical activity, please see the Guidelines for Physical Activity section.

III.A.2 Commercial Advertising

III.A.2.a Partnerships between schools and businesses are encouraged, and business sponsorship of educational activities and materials shall be duly acknowledged. However, such partnerships shall be designed to meet identified educational needs and healthy school environment goals and shall be evaluated for educational effectiveness by the school/district on an ongoing basis.

III.A.2.b Advertising messages should be consistent with and reinforce the objectives of the educational and nutrition environment goals of the school. Advertising of foods or beverages in the areas accessible to students during meal times must be consistent with established nutrition environment standards. The only foods and beverages allowed for marketing are those that meet the smart snacks regulations and nutrition standards. This requirement applies to exterior vending machines, posters, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and cups used for beverage dispensing.

B. Nutritious Food Choices

III.B.1 Foods of good nutritional content including fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy foods, and low-fat grain products, shall be available wherever and whenever food is sold or otherwise offered at school during the normal school day. DUSD Schools encourage students to make nutritious food choices by offering salad bar choices with 3 fresh fruit choices and 3 vegetable choices as well as other fruits and vegetables served daily.

III.B.2 Food and beverages sold or served on school grounds or at school-sponsored events during the normal school day shall meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and other nutrition standard guidelines as set forth by the Arizona Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs. This includes:

III.B.2.a a la carte offerings in the food service program;

III.B.2.b food and beverage choices in vending machines, snack bars, and school stores;

III.B.2.c food and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities; and

III.B.2.d refreshments served at student parties, celebrations, and meetings.

III.B.3 Only Smart Snack-compliant foods that meet the NSLP school nutrition standards can be provided to students anywhere on campus during the school day. According to *CDC All competitive foods and beverages sold during the school day must meet or exceed Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, which include limits on fat, sugar, sodium, and calorie content. These standards are the minimum requirement for schools, but states and local education agencies can continue*

to implement stronger nutrition standards for all competitive foods in schools.
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks>

III.B.3.a Non-Creditable Food Items- may be served during the lunch period, as well as contribute to the nutritional content of the menu. However, these foods do not count towards USDA meal patterns. Schools are encouraged to limit availability of these food items to students.

III.B.3.b Creditable- food item determined by USDA to have nutritional value and acceptable as a component of a complete meal. Schools are encouraged to serve a variety of credible food items.

C. Food Sales

III.C.1 *All food and beverage sales on school grounds shall be under the management of the National School Lunch Program regulations per ADE. This includes food and beverages sold from vending machines and school stores during the school day. The DECA High School Store is required to sell only Smart Snack-compliant foods that meet the NSLP school nutrition standards.* The DECA store will not be allowed to sell these food items while breakfast is being served and during lunch period in order to not compete with the NSLP per ADE regulations. The DECA store will pay a flat fee of \$500.00 of its food sales profit to DUSD Wellness Program. This partnership will be reevaluated on an annual basis to ensure that the impact on Food Services is maintained at 5% or less.

III.C.2 Only student organizations and legally constituted, nonsectarian, nonpartisan organizations approved by a designated school official are permitted to engage in fundraising on school grounds during the school day. These organizations are encouraged to raise funds through the sale of items other than food.

III.C.3 All food and beverage sales must meet the current NSLP regulations.

IV. Physical Activity and a Healthy School Environment

A. Recommendations for Physical Activity

IV.A.1 Physical education courses should be the environment in which students learn, practice, and are assessed on developmentally appropriate motor skills, social skills, and knowledge.

IV.A.2 Physical activity involves bodily movement that results in an expenditure of energy of at least a moderate intensity level and for a duration sufficient to provide a significant health benefit for students.

IV.A.3 DUSD follows the current regulations regarding daily recess in elementary schools. Children should accumulate at least 60 minutes of physical activity on all or most days of the week. This can be accomplished through several bouts of physical activity lasting 15 minutes or more each day.

IV.A.4 Extended periods of inactivity (periods of two or more hours) are discouraged.

IV.A.5 Physical activity training is provided to all PE teachers and staff through available programs such as CATCH.

IV.A.6 Staff, family, and community engagement in physical activities are promoted through fliers from all schools and information sent home with the monthly menus to the elementary and middle schools.

IV.A.7 Physical activities are incorporated into the after school program, and before school activity is promoted by providing recreational items for students on the playground. Physical activity programs are also provided by the district during the summers.

B. Recommendations for Physical Education for Children During the Normal School Day

IV.B.1 Ensure that the school district has a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP) and has state-certified physical education teachers for all physical education classes.

IV.B.2 Provide an adequate amount of time for physical education classes. Schools provide physical activity as required by ADE regulations for elementary students and for middle and high school students for the entire school year.

IV.B.3 Ensure that physical education classes have a teacher/student ratio comparable with those of other classes.

IV.B.4 Implement a sequential physical education course of study consistent with national standards for physical education and with a focus on students' development of motor skills, movement forms, and health-related fitness.

IV.B.5 Ensure that students are moderate to vigorously active at least 50% of the time while participating in physical education classes. PE exemptions/waivers are minimized by requiring modified PE activities as appropriate or required by the physician.

IV.B.6 Provide a physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.

IV.B.7 Prohibit the use of physical activity as punishment, the withholding of participation in physical education class as punishment, or the use of physical education class time to complete assignments from other classes.

C. Encouraging Lifetime Physical Activity through Wellness Promotion.

IV.C.1 Schools provide daily recess periods for all elementary school students.

IV.C.2 Schools are encouraged to provide physical activity breaks during classroom hours.

IV.C.3 Schools will be encouraged to provide community access to and encourage students and community members to use the school's physical activity facilities outside of the normal school day.

IV.C.4 Schools should encourage parents and community members to institute programs that support physical activity, such as a walk-to-school program.

IV.C.5 Schools should encourage after-school childcare programs to provide developmentally appropriate physical activity for participating children and reduce or eliminate the time spent in sedentary activities such as watching television or videos.

IV.C.6 DUSD Wellness Committee has a representative from the elementary school level, middle school level, high school level as well as at the district level. The committee also includes other staff members from Child Nutrition Department, Nursing, PE and health staff, local professional staff from health clinics, county health department, University health programs. Staff, parents, students and community members are encouraged to join the Wellness Committee. Invitations to join LWP have been sent with monthly menus, and are posted on the DUSD website with contact names and phone numbers.

D. Wellness Assessments and Reports

IV.D.1 The wellness policy will be assessed annually, or triennially minimum, by the committee listing wellness activities and actions. The assessment must measure how the district is complying with the LWP, how the LWP compares to the model ADE policy or state how the assessment will determine the progress made in attaining the goals of the LWP. The revised/updated policy will be submitted to the governing board approval.

IV.D.2 A report will be provided to the school board and posted on the website itemizing wellness activities and policy updates.

IV.D.3 A survey will be distributed for parents, students, and staff to assess the effectiveness of the LWP and make recommendations. Survey results will be posted on the DUSD website.