

Adopted: 4/17/12

*Northwest Passage High School*

Revised: 10/15/16

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

### **GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

1. The school board recognizes that nutrition education and physical education are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and education.
2. The school environment should promote and protect students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
3. The school district encourages the involvement of students, parents, teachers, food service staff, and other interested persons, in implementing, monitoring, and reviewing school nutrition and physical activity policies.
4. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.
5. All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
6. Personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

### **GUIDELINES**

#### **A. Food and Beverages**

*[NOTE: The Act requires that school districts have nutrition guidelines selected by the school district for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing student obesity.]*

1. All foods and beverages made available on campus (including concessions and ala carte cafeteria items) will be consistent with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
2. Personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet or exceed all federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.
3. Provide a variety of beverage choices to high school students, such as bottled water, 100 percent juice, and juice drinks. No more than 50 percent of the vending selections will be soft drinks or sports drinks.

4. Personnel shall adhere to all federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
5. The school will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.
6. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
7. The school district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.
8. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during meal times, unless students may eat during such activities.
9. The school district recommends and encourages nutritious foods and beverages to be sold as part of school sponsored fundraising activities.

B. School Program / Personnel

1. The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that strictly comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations
2. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.
3. The school district will promote the more healthy food options to students by working in conjunction with student organizations to choose food offerings monthly.

C. Nutrition Education and Promotion

*[NOTE: The Act requires that wellness policies include goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness in a manner that the school district determines is appropriate.]*

1. The school district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is:
  - a. Offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
  - b. Part of health education classes as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and
  - c. Enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste tasting, and field trips.
2. The school district will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable school meals programs, such as through ala carte [snack] lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.

3. The school will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, (unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan or behavior intervention plan)

#### D. Physical Activity

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities such as watching television.
2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate.
3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, where appropriate.

#### E. Communications with Parents

1. The school district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary and fundamental role in promoting and protecting their children's health and well-being.
2. The school district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
3. The school district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.
4. The school district will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

*[NOTE: The Act requires that the wellness policy establish a plan for measuring the implementation of the policy, including designation of at least one or more persons within the school district charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements of the wellness policy.]*

1. After approval by the school board, the Wellness Policy will be implemented throughout the school district.
  - a. The school Director will ensure compliance with the Wellness Policy and will provide an annual report of the school district's compliance with the policy to the school board.

**Legal References:** 42 USC - 1751 et seq. (Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act)  
42 USC - 1771 et seq. (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)  
PL 108-265 (2004) - 204 (Local Wellness Policy)  
7 CFR - 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)  
7 CFR - 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)

***Local Resources:*** Minnesota Department of Education, [www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)  
Minnesota Department of Health, [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)  
County Health Departments  
Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org)