

## **Policy 533 WELLNESS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

As required by the federal Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, the purpose of this policy is to set forth methods that promote student and staff wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and ensure that school meals and other food and beverages sold and otherwise made available on the Northfield Public Schools' campus during the school day are consistent with applicable minimum local, state, and federal standards.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The Board of Education recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness are essential components of the educational process and that good holistic health fosters student attendance and learning.
- B. The school environment should promote student and staff health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
- C. The district encourages the involvement of parents, caregivers, students, representatives of the child nutrition department, teachers, school health professionals, the board, school administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the district's wellness policy.
- D. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.
- E. All students in grades E-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- F. Qualified child nutrition 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.
- G. For the purposes of this policy, the school day is defined as a regular school day by the school board-approved district academic calendar from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the school day.

### **III. WELLNESS GOALS**

#### **A. Nutrition Promotion and Education**

1. The district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and staff, and engage in nutrition promotion that is:
  - a. Offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students and staff 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.
  - c. Enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and field trips.
2. The district will encourage all students and staff to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs, such as through a la carte/snack lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.

**B. Physical Activity**

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health and physical education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities.
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, as appropriate.
4. The district will provide students whose families qualify for free or reduced priced meals through the National School Lunch Program with scholarships for athletic and community education classes that promote physical activities. The district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for these scholarships.

**C. Communications with Parents**

1. The district recognizes that parents, guardians, and caregivers have a primary role in promoting their children's health and well-being.
2. The district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
3. The district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.

4. The district will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support family efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

#### **IV. STANDARDS AND NUTRITION GUIDELINES**

##### **A. School Meals**

1. The district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.
2. Child nutrition personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.
3. Child nutrition personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning.
4. Child nutrition personnel will try to accommodate the needs of vegetarian/vegan students.
5. Child nutrition personnel will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
6. Child nutrition personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meets or exceeds all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations and that reimbursable school meals meet USDA nutrition standards.
7. Child nutrition personnel shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
8. The district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
9. The district will publish the process used to accommodate dietary restrictions due to allergies or intolerances on the child nutrition department website.
10. The district will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day and make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals.
11. The district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes unless students may eat during such activities.

##### **B. School Food Service Program/Personnel**

1. The district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.

2. As part of the district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the district will provide continuing professional development for all child nutrition personnel in schools.

**C. Competitive Foods and Beverages**

1. All foods and beverages sold on school grounds to students and staff, outside of reimbursable meals, are considered "competitive foods." Competitive foods include items sold à la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores, and for in-school fundraisers. This does not include concession stand fundraisers held outside of school hours.
2. All competitive foods will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School (Smart Snacks) nutrition standards and any applicable state nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits.
3. Before and Aftercare (child care) programs must also comply with the district's nutrition standards unless they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in which case they must comply with all applicable USDA standards.

**D. Other Foods and Beverages Made Available to Students**

1. Student and staff wellness will be a consideration for all foods offered, but not sold, to students on the school campus, including those foods provided through:
  - a. Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.
  - b. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The district will provide to parents a list of suggested foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

Up to two special event exceptions will be allowed at the Middle School, the High School, and the Area Learning Center per year. Two exceptions per grade level, per year, will be allowed at the Elementary Schools. These events will be determined by the building administrator and Wellness Committee Coordinator. These exceptions will be documented on our District Wellness procedures form and provided to the Director of Finance to determine if an expense is allowable under the wellness policy guidelines.

2. Rewards and incentives. Schools 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) and will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.

3. Fundraising. The district will make available to parents and teachers a list of suggested healthy fundraising ideas.

**E. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools**

1. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.
2. Schools will restrict food and beverages marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

**V. WELLNESS LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**A. Wellness Coordinator**

1. The superintendent will designate a district official to oversee the district's wellness activities (Wellness Coordinator). The Wellness Coordinator will ensure that each school implements the policy.
2. The principal of each school, or a designated school official, will ensure compliance within the school and will report to the Wellness Coordinator regarding compliance matters upon request.

**B. Public Involvement**

1. The Wellness Coordinator will permit parents, students, representatives of the child nutrition department, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy.
2. The Wellness Coordinator will hold meetings, from time to time, for the purpose of discussing the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the district's website and will be open to the public.

**VI. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

**A. Implementation and Publication**

1. After approval by the board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the district.
2. The district will post its wellness policy on its website.

**B. Annual Reporting**

The Wellness Coordinator will annually inform the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public.

**C. Triennial Assessment**

1. At least once every three years, the district will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and create a report that includes the following information:
  - a. the extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the district are in compliance with the wellness policy;
  - b. the extent to which the district's wellness policy compares to model local wellness policies; and
  - c. a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the district's wellness policy.
2. The Wellness Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the triennial assessment.
3. The triennial assessment report shall be posted on the district's website or otherwise made available to the public.

**D. Record Keeping**

The district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. The records to be retained include, but are not limited to:

1. The district's written wellness policy.
2. Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public.
3. Documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy for each school under the district's jurisdiction efforts to review and update the wellness 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 Wellness Committee).

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Board of Education

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659

Northfield, Minnesota

**Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 121A.215 (Local School District Wellness Policy; Website)  
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Local School Wellness Policy)  
42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act)  
7 U.S.C. § 5341 (Establishment of Dietary Guidelines)  
7 C.F.R. § 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)  
7 C.F.R. § 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)  
United States Department of Agriculture, [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)