

New Castle Community School Corporation

Bylaws & Policies

8510 - WELLNESS

As required by law, the School Board establishes the following wellness policy for the School Corporation as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the Corporation's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in student's healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

- A. With regard to nutrition education:
 - 1. Nutrition education shall be included in the health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
 - 2. Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
 - 3. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
 - 4. The standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be behavior focused.
 - 5. Instruction related to the standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be provided by highly qualified teachers.

- B. With regard to physical activity:

1. **Physical Education**

- a. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- b. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- c. Planned instruction in physical education shall promote participation in physical activity outside the regular school day.
- d. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- e. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
- f. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- g. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, bullying, or harassment of any kind.
- h. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.

2. **Physical Activity**

- a. Physical activity shall not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
- b. Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school

day.

C. With regard to other school-based activities:

1. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
2. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
3. The schools may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
4. Schools in our system utilize electronic identification and payment systems, therefore, eliminating any stigma or identification of students eligible to receive free and/or reduced meals.
5. Parents shall be informed that the application for free and reduced meal benefits will be available online and in paper form in all school offices.

D. With regard to nutrition promotion, the Corporation shall:

1. encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day;
2. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods:
 - a. a variety of fresh produce to include those prepared without added fats, sugars, refined sugars, and sodium
 - b. a variety of vegetables daily to include specific subgroups as defined by dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy
 - c. whole grain products - half of all grains need to be whole grain-rich upon initial implementation and all grains must be whole grain-rich within two (2) years of implementation
 - d. fluid milk that is fat-free (unflavored and flavored) and

low-fat (unflavored)

- e. meals designed to meet specific calorie ranges for age/grade groups
3. eliminate trans-fat from school meals;
 4. require students to select a fruit or vegetable as part of a complete reimbursable meal;
 5. discourage rewarding children in the classroom with candy and other foods that can undermine children's diets and health and reinforce unhealthy eating habits. A wide variety of alternative rewards can be used to provide positive reinforcement for children's behavior and academic performance.

Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well being, and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:

- A. In accordance with Policy [8500](#), entitled Food Service, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program.
- B. As set forth in Policy [8531](#), entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, the guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- C. The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritious value.
- D. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well.
- E. All food items and beverages available for sale to students for consumption on campus between midnight and thirty (30) minutes after the close of the regular school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including, but not limited to, competitive foods that are available to students à la carte in the dining area, as well as food items and beverages from vending machines, school stores, or fund-raisers by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs.
- F. Nutrition information for competitive foods available during the school day shall be readily available near the point of purchase.

- G. The school shall prepare and distribute to staff, parents, and after-school program personnel a list of snack items that comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- H. The food service program shall be administered by a qualified nutrition professional.
- I. The food service program shall be administered by a director who is properly qualified, certificated, licensed, or credentialed, according to current professional standards.
- J. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- K. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program in accordance with the USDA Professional Standards for state and local nutrition programs.
- L. The SFA will provide nutrition information to the public upon request.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual(s) charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the Corporation's implementation and progress under this policy.

The Superintendent shall appoint a Corporation wellness committee that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, nutritionists or certified dietitians, educational staff (including physical education teachers), school health professionals, the School Board, school administrators, and members of the public to oversee the development, implementation, evaluation, and periodic update, if necessary, of the wellness policy.

The Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the committee.

The wellness committee shall be an ad hoc committee of the Board with members recruited and appointed annually.

The wellness committee shall:

- A. assess the current environment in each of the Corporation's schools;
- B. measure the implementation of the Corporation's wellness policy in each of the Corporation's schools;
- C. review the Corporation's current wellness policy;
- D. recommend revision of the policy, as appropriate; and

- E. present the wellness policy, with any recommended revisions, to the Board for approval or re-adoption if revisions are recommended.

Before the end of each school year the wellness committee shall submit to the Superintendent and Board their report in which they describe the environment in each of the Corporation's schools and the implementation of the wellness policy in each school, and identify any revisions to the policy the committee deems necessary.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the work of the wellness committee, including their assessment of the environment in the Corporation, their evaluation of wellness policy implementation Corporation-wide, and the areas for improvement, if any, that the committee identified. The committee also shall report on the status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining goals established in the policy.

The Superintendent also shall be responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall post the wellness policy on the Corporation's website, including the assessment of the implementation of the policy prepared by the Corporation.

I.C. 20-26-9-18
42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.
42 U.S.C. 1758b
42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.
7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220

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