

POLICY A-004
WELLNESS POLICY

Introduction

Western Gateway Elementary School is committed to the optimal development of every student. The School believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create positive, safe, and health- promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

This policy outlines the School’s approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the School have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus—in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and after school;
- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the SCHOOL in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The School establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff, and schools in the School.

I. School Wellness Committee

The School will convene a representative School wellness committee that meets at least two times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the School wellness policy, which will be forwarded to the Board for consideration and possible approval.

The Committee membership will represent: parents; representatives of the school nutrition program (*e.g.*, the school nutrition director); teachers; school administrators, school board members; health professionals; and the general public. The Head of School or designee(s) will convene the Committee and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

II. Wellness Policy Assessment Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, Community Engagement, and Public Release

Annual Progress Reports and Assessment Implementation

The School will compile and publish an annual assessment report to share basic information about the wellness policy and report on the School's progress under the policy.

Community and Stakeholder Awareness, Outreach, and Communications

The School is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The School will actively communicate ways in which representatives of Committee and other Stakeholders can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of appropriate means. The School will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The School will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the School's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The School will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the School is communicating other important school information with parents.

Public Release

The School will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum.

III. Nutrition

School Meals

The School is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meet 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.

The School participates in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The LEA is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, 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. (The School offers meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout the campus. The School will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. In addition, students may be allowed to bring and carry (approved)

water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The School is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. Competitive Foods and Beverages will not be allowed.

Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. The School will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

Nutrition Promotion

Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

Nutrition Education

The School aims to teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities;
- Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise); and
- Include nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

IV. Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive, school-based physical activity program that includes these components: physical education, recess, classroom-based physical activity, and out-of-school time activities and the School is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, physical activity breaks, or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason. The School will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline students.

The School will take all reasonable measures to ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The School will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Physical Education

The School 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, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts.

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

All students will receive physical education for at least **120 minutes per week** throughout the school year.

Recess

The School may offer **recess** on all or most days during the school year. If recess is offered before lunch, Schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating. Students are required to wash or sanitize their hands before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built into the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play.

In the event that the School must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not replace, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Physical Activity Breaks

The School recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students may be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The School recommends teachers provide short (3-5 minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time. These physical activity breaks will complement, not be a substitute for, physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

Before and After School Activities

The School offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods.

Adopted: 5/19/2021

Reference: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296); Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1758b), Local School Wellness Policy Implementation; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265).