



IDEA Public Schools Wellness Policy

Updated June 3, 2020

Preamble

IDEA Public schools (hereto referred to as the District) is committed to the optimal academic and personal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve success we need to create positive, safe, health-promoting learning environments throughout the school year.

This Wellness Policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day. Specifically, this Policy establishes guidelines to ensure that:

- Student in the District have access to healthy foods throughout the school day;
- 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, family, and staff wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school.

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

I. Wellness Policy Implementation

Federal law requires that certain stakeholders be involved in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The District has chosen to use the local school health advisory council (SHAC) to work on behalf of the District to review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in order to develop and implement nutrition guidelines and wellness goals as required by federal law. The SHAC will permit the following persons to work with the SHAC on the District's Wellness Policy and plan: parents, students, the District's food service provider, physical education teachers, school health professionals, Board members, administrators, and members of the public. The SHAC will solicit involvement and input of these other interested persons by:

- 1) VP Student Performance & Advocacy
- 2) VP of Program Innovation
- 3) VP of Auxiliary Services
- 4) Healthy Kids Here Program Manager
- 5) Managing Director of The Child Nutrition Program
- 6) Director of Health & Wellness
- 7) Athletic Director

All schools will implement IDEA Public School's Wellness Policy. Schools can choose to implement a more restrictive local policy, but must, at a minimum, meet these standards.

Every 3 years, the District will measure and make available to the public the results of an assessment of the implementation of the District's Wellness Policy, the extent to which each campus is compliant with the wellness policy, a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy, and the extent to which the wellness policy compares with any state- or federally designated model wellness policies. The District will use measures aligned with Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Gold Award to track schools' compliance and progress.

II. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Served on Campus

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Feeding Program, or any additional meal programs added will:

- Be served in clean and pleasant settings
- Meet or Exceed USDA nutritional standards
- Offer a variety of *fresh* fruits and vegetables

Breakfast. To ensure that all children are offered breakfast in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn:

- Schools will operate universal breakfast which is offered at no cost to students
- Schools will, to the extent possible, utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that maximize participation, including serving breakfast in the classroom, “grab-and-go” breakfast, or breakfast during morning break or recess.

Mealtimes and Scheduling. To ensure that all children have meals with adequate and reasonable time to consume them:

- Schools will provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down with their food in front of them for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down with their food in front of them for lunch¹
- Schools will not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities
- School meals will not be withheld as punishment
- Schools will provide students access to hand washing stations and will advocate for hand washing before they eat meals or snacks²
- Schools will take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or high tooth decay risk)

Sharing of Foods and Beverages. To ensure the health and safety of children with food allergies, intolerances, special diets, and religious beliefs, schools will prohibit students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times.

III. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold on Campus

Smart Snacks. To ensure that snacks make a positive contribution to children’s diets and health, all schools will emphasize serving fresh fruits and vegetables as the primary snack and water as the primary beverage.

All snacks sold must follow Smart Snacks rules³ and should meet the following Smart Snacks standards:

Foods

- Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grain; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food; or
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable; or
- Contain 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of one of the nutrients of public health concern in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber).

Nutrient	Snack
Calories	200 calories or less
Sodium	200 mg or less

Total Fat	35% of calories or less
Saturated Fat	Less than 10% of calories
Trans Fat	0g
Sugar	35% by weight or less

Beverages

- Allowed: Plain water (with or without carbonation), unflavored low-fat milk, unflavored fat free milk and milk alternatives, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water and no added sweeteners.
 - There is no portion size limit for plain water.
 - Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions of milk and juice.
 - Middle and high schools may sell up to 12-ounce portions of milk and juice.
- Not allowed: soft drinks containing caloric sweeteners or artificial sweeteners; sports drinks; iced teas; fruit-based drinks or any that contain additional caloric sweeteners; beverages containing caffeine.

Smart Snacks Calculator

- To find out if your snack meets the smart snacks requirements visit: <https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator/>

Portion Sizes

When not using the Smart Snack calculator, limit portion sizes of foods and beverages sold individually to:

- 1.25 ounces for chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, or jerky
- 1 ounce for cookie
- 2 ounces for cereal bars, granola bars, pastries, muffins, doughnuts, bagels, and other bakery items
- 4 oz. for frozen desserts, including, but not limited to, low-fat or fat-free ice cream
- 8 oz. for non-frozen yogurt

The portion size of a la carte entrees and side dishes, including potatoes, will not be greater than the size of comparable portions offered as part of school meals. Fruits and non-fried vegetables are exempt from portion size limits.

Fundraising Activities. To support children’s health and school nutrition education efforts, school fundraising activities, during and after the school day, will only sell non-food items or foods and beverages that meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. Schools will also encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity.

To support this initiative, the District will provide schools with a fundraiser toolkit. This toolkit will include a list of compliant fundraising ideas, and steps to execute such events. Schools are encouraged to use this toolkit as a list of suggestions and should not feel limited to the ideas provided.

IV. Rewards, Celebrations, and Events

Food as reward. Schools will not use foods or beverages as reward⁴. Behavior plans that use food as reward will need to be approved by the respective VP of Schools and District SHAC Coordinator.

Food as punishment. Schools will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.

Celebrations during the school day. There will be no nutrition exemptions for special events. Schools are encouraged to be creative in holding celebrations without food, or solely involving foods that meet the Smart Snacks standards (see Section III). It is suggested that schools leverage some of the ideas in the fundraiser toolkit for school celebrations as well.

School-sponsored Events. Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside of school meal programs during the school day and during the extended school day (including out-of-school time/before and after school) will, at minimum, meet the nutrition standards enumerated in Smart Snacks (See section III).

V. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion. IDEA Public Schools aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Offers each grade level a nutrition program at least once a semester which promotes and protects their health
- Includes but is not limited to contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy, low sodium products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (moderate to vigorous physical activity/exercise);
- Connects school meal programs with nutrition-related community services;

Additionally, all food service staff, teachers, and other school personnel shall consistently promote healthy nutrition messages in cafeteria, classrooms, and other appropriate settings.

Communication with Parents. The school will support and encourage parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.

- The school will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities available before, during, and after the school day.
- The school will share results of FitnessGram⁵ twice a year, pretest and posttest, with parents
- The school will share its individual wellness policy allowing that the school can create a policy that is stricter than the District Wellness Policy but not more lenient.
- The school will share ideas and recommendations for allowable awards and celebrations.
- The school will share guidance on what foods/snacks are allowable for parents to bring to campus.
 - Food that does not meet Smart Snack guidelines will not be accepted on campus.
 - The school will not be responsible for replacing or refunding any non-approved food items discarded on campus.

Additionally, the school shall share educational nutrition information with families and the public to promote healthy nutrition choices and positively influence the health of students.

Food Marketing in Schools. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, schools will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually that meet Smart Snacks standards (See section III).

VI. Physical Education and Health Education

Physical Education (P.E.) K-12. To ensure the health and wellness of our students and compliance with TEA physical education requirements⁶

- All students in PE grades K-12, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive an average of 135 minutes/week of physical education for Academy students and 225 minutes/ 2 weeks for College Preparatory students.

- Students will spend at least 50% of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- All students taking PE will be evaluated twice a year using FitnessGram to evaluate for performing in the Healthy Fitness Zone. (Pretest and Posttest)

Space. To ensure that students participate in school physical education class, the campus will, to the extent possible, provide an environment that is safe, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate for all students, whether or not they are participating in the physical activity taking place during physical education.

Clothing. To ensure that students participate in physical activity during physical education class and that students' hygiene is maintained during the school day, student will to the extent possible be provided with a space to change clothing. This applies to the general population of students in College Prep. Grades 6th-12th; academy students are not permitted to alter uniform/clothing.

Health Education. To meet the coordinated health program component of the TEA nutrition education requirement

- Schools will deliver nutrition education at least once a semester that fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors.
- Schools will make nutrition education a priority and shall integrate it into other areas of the curriculum as appropriate.
- The District shall provide annual professional development so that teachers and other staff responsible for the nutrition education program are adequately prepared to effectively deliver the program.

VII. Physical Activity Opportunities

Recess. All Academy school students will have at least 30 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools will encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and choice play.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School. All schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as athletics, non-competitive physical activity clubs and/or intramural programs. Every effort will be made by the school to provide ample opportunity before and after the school day for students to participate.

Physical Activity and Punishment. Campus administrators will not endorse or authorize campus personnel, especially teachers to use physical activity or withhold of opportunities for physical activity as a form of behavioral punishment.

Safe Routes to School. The school district will assess and, if necessary and to the extent possible, make needed improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school.

Additional Physical Activity Opportunities. School teachers and staff are also encouraged to integrate physical activity into the academic curriculum where appropriate. Additionally, the District will offer appropriate training and other activities annually to District employees to promote enjoyable, lifelong physical activity for District employees and students; schools shall do the same.

Communication with Parents. The school will encourage parents to support their children's participation, to be active role models, and to include physical activity in family events. Additionally, schools shall include parents in before- and after-school programs involving physical activity, when appropriate.

Moreover, schools shall encourage all students, parents, staff, and community members to use their recreational facilities (such as tracks, playgrounds, fields, etc.) that are available outside of school hours.

VIII. Health Services

Clinic Responsibilities. To respect the privacy of students and make health aides available to respond to emergencies, should any arise at the campus:

- School clinics will be used primarily for the medical attention of students.
- School clinics will operate during school hours. The clinic will be closed daily for a lunch break or may be covered by a back-up staff member.
- If the clinic needs to close for health-related events such as state-mandated screenings, appropriate signage will be posted on the clinic door indicating when the clinic will reopen.
- If the campus health aide is absent, school administration is responsible for providing staff to manage the clinic.
- School clinic personnel will not administer any over the counter medication without written permission from parents and/or a physician (the student's personal physician).
- School clinics will not provide or administer the treatment for pediculosis capitis, head lice.
- Only the health aide or an administrator may enter the clinic after hours and in the case of an emergency.
- Health aides will follow exclusionary criteria set forth by the CDC and Texas Administrative Code.

IX. Monitoring and Policy Review

Monitoring. The district designee will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the campus designee or Principal will ensure compliance with those policies in their school and will report on the school's compliance to the school district designee.

The district designee will develop a summary report every three years on district-wide compliance with the district's established wellness policies based on input from schools within the district. That report will be provided to the school board and distributed to school health councils, parent/teacher organizations, school principals, and school health services personnel in the district.

Policy Review. Assessments of existing wellness policies will be repeated every three years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the school district will review nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. The district, and individual schools within the district, will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.

¹ <http://www.kleinisd.net/users/0056/docs/TxSchoolNutritionPolicy.pdf>

² <http://itsasnap.org/>

³ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-smart-snacks-school>

⁴ <http://www.squaremeals.org/Portals/8/files/publications/Non%20Food%20Ways%20to%20Reward.pdf>

⁵ http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Correspondence/TAA_Letters/Required_Physical_Fitness_Assessment_2014/

⁶ http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Subject_Areas/Health_and_Physical_Education/Physical_Education/