

Lewis Center for Educational Research

**AR 5030: STUDENTS
SCHOOL WELLNESS**

Adopted: December 10, 2007

Revised: May 8, 2023

Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition

The Lewis Center for Educational Research (“LCER”) is committed to the optimal development of every student and acknowledges that children need access to healthful foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive; and that good health fosters student attendance and education, therefore the LCER is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children’s health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

It is the policy of the LCER to:

- Engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing school nutrition and physical activity policies.
- All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the *U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- School food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- The LCER will participate in the National School Lunch Program.
- LCER will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster life-long habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. SCHOOL WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The LCER Wellness Committee will create, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The committee also will serve as resource to school sites for implementing those policies by attending school health related workshops and conferences and accessing other health and wellness related resources. A school wellness committee consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and will

strive to include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.

II. NUTRITIONAL QUALITY OF FOODS AND BEVERAGES SOLD AND SERVED ON CAMPUS

SCHOOL MEALS

LCER is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that meet the USDA meal pattern 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 special dietary needs.

LCER participates in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Meals served through the National School Lunch Program will:

- be accessible to all students;
- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- serve only low-fat and fat-free milk and nutritionally-equivalent nondairy alternatives (to be defined by USDA); and
- ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain.
- ensure fresh fruits and vegetables are available daily

As recommended by the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025*.

A whole grain is one labeled as a “whole” grain product or with a whole grain listed as the primary grain ingredient in the ingredient statement. Examples include “whole” wheat flour, cracked wheat, brown rice, and oatmeal.

Schools should share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. Such information could be made available on menus, a website, on cafeteria menu boards, placards, or other point-of-purchase materials.

Breakfast

To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn:

- Schools will, to the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

- Schools will, to the extent possible, utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast in the classroom, “grab-and-go” breakfast, or breakfast during morning break or recess.
- Schools that serve breakfast to students will notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.
- Schools will encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials, or other means.

Free and Reduced-priced Meals

The LCER employees are aware that it is against the law to make others in the cafeteria aware of the eligibility status of children for free, reduced-price, or "paid" meals, regardless of income. Employees will promote the availability of school meals to all students.

Schools 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. Toward this end, schools may utilize electronic identification and payment systems and/or provide meals at no charge to all children.

Meal Times and Scheduling

LCER:

- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, *e.g.*, lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- should not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.
- will schedule recess periods to follow lunch periods (in elementary schools).
- will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
- should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (*e.g.*, orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff

Meals served at the LCER will be prepared and supplied by an approved, contracted food company. A menu coordinator from said contracted company will administer the school meal programs. As part of the LCER’s responsibility to operate a food service program, we will provide continuing food service professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for Compliance Manager, Lead Food Service Worker, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages

Schools should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

FOODS AND BEVERAGES SOLD INDIVIDUALLY

(*i.e.*, foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

Elementary Schools

The school food service program will approve all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food in elementary schools should be sold as balanced meals. If available, foods and beverages sold individually should be limited to low-fat and non-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables.

Middle/Junior High and High Schools

In middle/junior high and high schools, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day, will meet the following nutrition and portion size standards.

Beverages

Allowed: water or seltzer water without added caloric sweeteners; fruit and vegetable juices and fruit-based drinks that contain at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; unflavored or flavored low-fat or fat-free fluid milk and nutritionally-equivalent nondairy beverages (to be defined by USDA.)

Not allowed: soft drinks containing caloric sweeteners; sports drinks; iced teas; fruit-based drinks that contain less than 50% real fruit juice or that contain additional caloric sweeteners; beverages containing caffeine, excluding low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk (which contain trivial amounts of caffeine).

Surprisingly, seltzer water may not be sold during meal times in areas of the school where food is sold or eaten because it is considered a "Food of Minimal Nutritional Value."

Foods

- A food item sold individually will have no more than 30% of its calories from fat (excluding nuts, seeds, peanut butter, and other nut butters) and no more than 10% of its calories from saturated and trans fat combined will have no more than 35% of its *weight* from added sugars.

- Sodium weekly limits will be:

School Breakfast Program Transitional Sodium Limits:

Age/grade Group	Effective July 1, 2022
Grades TK-5	≤ 540 mg
Grades 6-8	≤ 600 mg
Grades 9-12	≤ 640 mg

National School Lunch Program Transitional Sodium Limits:

Age/grade Group	Effective July 1, 2022	Effective July 1, 2023
Grades TK-5	≤ 1,230 mg	≤ 1,110 mg
Grades 6-8	≤ 1,360 mg	≤ 1,225 mg
Grades 9-12	≤ 1,420 mg	≤ 1,280 mg

- If a food manufacturer fails to provide the *added* sugars content of a food item, use the percentage of weight from *total* sugars (in place of the percentage of weight from *added* sugars), and exempt fruits, vegetables, and dairy foods from this total sugars limit.
- A choice of at least two fruits and/or non-fried vegetables will be offered for sale at any location on the school site where foods are sold. Such items could include, but are not limited to, fresh fruits and vegetables; 100% fruit or vegetable juice; fruit-based drinks that are at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; cooked, dried, or canned fruits (canned in fruit juice or light syrup); and cooked, dried, or canned vegetables (that meet the above fat and sodium guidelines).

Portion Sizes:

Limit portion sizes of foods and beverages sold individually to those listed below:

- One and one-quarter ounces for chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, or jerky.
- One ounce for cookies.
- Two ounces for cereal bars, granola bars, pastries, muffins, doughnuts, bagels, and other bakery items.
- Four fluid ounces for frozen desserts, including, but not limited to, low-fat or fat-free ice cream.
- Eight ounces for non-frozen yogurt.

- Twelve fluid ounces for beverages, excluding water.
- 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/CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school fundraising activities will not involve food or will use only foods that meet the above nutrition and portion size standards for foods and beverages sold individually.

Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The LCER will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities

Snacks

Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other considerations. Schools that have vending machines are encouraged to include refrigerated snack vending machines, which can accommodate fruits, vegetables, yogurts, and other perishable items.

The LCER will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

Rewards

Schools will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above), as rewards for academic performance or good behavior and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations

Schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). The district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

School-sponsored Events

(such as, but not limited to, athletic events, dances, or performances).

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day will meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually (above).

III. NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTION AND FOOD MARKETING

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

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

- is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program 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 classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects.
- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens.
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices.
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise.)
- links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition related community services.
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing.
- includes training for teachers and other staff.

INTEGRATING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO THE CLASSROOM SETTING

The LCER PE department will follow the state mandated guidelines for Physical Education. For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity (*i.e.*, at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television.
- opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons.
- classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Communications with Parents

The LCER will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The LCER will send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school websites, and provide nutrient analyses of school menus. Schools should encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the above nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. The LCER will provide parents a list of foods that meet the snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities. In addition, the LCER will provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community.

The LCER will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

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 (above). School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages is prohibited. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

Examples of marketing techniques include the following: logos and brand names on/in vending machines, books or curricula, textbook covers, school supplies, scoreboards, school structures, and sports equipment; educational incentive programs that provide food as a reward. Marketing activities that promote healthful behaviors (and are therefore allowable) include: vending machine covers promoting water; pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines; sales of fruit for fundraisers; and coupons for discount gym memberships.

Staff Wellness

LCER highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The plan should be based on input solicited from school staff and should outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among school staff.

IV. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K-12

All students in grades K-12, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will have the opportunity for daily physical education (or its

equivalent of 100 minutes/week for elementary school students and 225 minutes/week for middle and high school students) for the entire school year. All physical education will be taught by a certified teacher.

Interscholastic or intramural sports will not be substituted for meeting the physical education requirement. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Daily Recess

All elementary school students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools should encourage moderate to vigorous physical. Schools should discourage extended periods (*i.e.*, periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School

The LCER staff will encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities by providing information and schedules of local agencies providing such activities.

Physical Activity and Punishment

Teachers and other school and community personnel will not withhold opportunities for physical activity (*e.g.*, recess, physical education) as punishment.

Safe Routes to School

The LCER 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. When appropriate, the district will work together with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments in those efforts.

Use of School Facilities Outside of School Hours

With prior approval, school spaces and facilities should be available to community agencies and organizations offering physical activity and nutrition programs. School policies concerning safety will apply at all times.

V. MONITORING AND POLICY REVIEW

Monitoring

The CEO/President or designee will ensure compliance with established LCER nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance to the CEO/president or designee.

School food service staff, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the CEO or designee. In addition, the LCER will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the district has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible.

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

Policy Review

To help with the initial development of the LCER's wellness policy, each school in the district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies. The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the district level to identify and prioritize needs.

Assessments 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 compliance office will review our 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 LCER, and individual schools within the LCER, will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.