

**Lewis Center for Educational Research  
Academy for Academic Excellence  
Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy  
Wellness Policies on  
Physical Activity and Nutrition  
2015-2016**

The Lewis Center for Educational Research (LCER) 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, and 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

Meals served through the National School Lunch Program will:

- 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; and will not be less restrictive than the USDA regulations and guidance
- 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.

As recommended by the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005*.

*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.*

Upon request schools may 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.
- 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.

### **Special Diet Requests**

Students requiring special diet request need to contact the Food Services department. A Medical Statement to Request Special Meals and Accommodations will be required to be filled out by a physician. Special meals will be determined upon review of the request.

### **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 before or after 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 supervising employee of food service department, 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.

### **Competitive Food Sale Requirements**

The schools under the guidance of LCER, being charter schools, are required to follow state guidelines for Nutrition Standards Requirements. Charter schools

are not mandated to follow the federal guidelines; however, the wellness committee will encourage the schools to follow the guidelines below.

Foods and beverages sold on campus, will follow the guidelines below:

### **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 LCER is committed to providing students with the best possible nutrition at school. Proper nutrition is important for both physical and educational development. Nourishing meals assist children in making the most of their educational opportunities.

Accordingly, it is the policy of the LCER that the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value shall be prohibited throughout school grounds from the start of the school day to the end of the last lunch period.

Foods of minimal nutritional value, as stated in 7 Code of Federal Regulations 210.11, include soft drinks, water ices, chewing gum, and certain types of hard candies, jellies and gums, marshmallow candies, fondants, licorice, spun candy, and candy coated popcorn.

If available, foods and beverages sold individually should be limited to water, low-fat and non-fat milk, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, fruits, whole grain rich grain products and non-fried vegetables.

This prohibition applies to all food sales on school grounds including sales from kiosks, vending machines and student stores.

The sale of food by student organizations is permitted only if the governing board approves the sale of not more than one food item; and:

- The sale is conducted after the noon meal service
- The food is not prepared on the school premises
- There are no more than four such sales per year
- The food item is a dessert type food
- The food item is not sold in the food service program that day at that school.

#### **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.) Electrolyte replacement beverages that contain no more than 42 grams of added sweetener per 20 ounce serving.

• **Not allowed:** soft drinks containing caloric sweeteners; sports drinks with more than 42 grams of added sweetener per 20 ounce serving; 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 35% of its calories from fat (excluding nuts, seeds, peanut butter, and other nut butters) and 10% of its calories from saturated and trans fat combined will have no more than 35% of its *weight* from added sugars.
- Will contain no more than 230 mg of sodium per serving for chips, cereals, crackers, French fries, baked goods, and other snack items. Will contain no more than 480 mg of sodium per serving for pastas, meats, and soups; and will contain no more than 600 mg of sodium for pizza, sandwiches, and main dishes.
- 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, it will be encouraged that 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.

Notification of fundraising activities needs to be submitted to the Principal for approval.

### **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 if requested.

### **Rewards**

Schools will encourage classroom teachers to 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 if requested.

### **School-sponsored Events**

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

It is encourage that 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).

### **Fundraising Exemptions:**

California law states that foods that do not meet the standards may be sold at least one-half hour after the end of the school day or off the school premises, however it is the intention of the LCER Wellness committee to encourage non-food items for fundraising events.

## **III. NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTION AND FOOD MARKETING**

### **NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION**

LCER aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should 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 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 annually 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 Nutrition Programs Administrative Review findings and any resulting changes. If the district has not received an AR review from the state agency within the past three years, the district will request from the state agency that an AR 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.

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at:

[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.