



Book	Policy Manual
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8510 - **WELLNESS**

As required by law, the School Board establishes the following wellness policy for the Whitko Community 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 students 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 integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
2. Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.
3. Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide or MyPlate, will be displayed in the cafeteria.
4. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school by engaging and involving families and the community.
5. Nutrition education shall reinforce lifelong balance by emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate.
6. Staff responsible for providing instruction in nutrition education shall regularly participate in professional development activities designed to better enable them to teach the benchmarks and standards.

B. With regard to physical activity:

1. **Physical Education**

- a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

- d. Planned instruction in physical education shall promote participation in physical activity outside the regular school day.
- e. Physical education classes 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.
- f. The K-12 program shall include instruction in physical education as well as opportunities to participate in competitive and non-competitive team sports to encourage lifelong physical activity.

2. Physical Activity

- a. Physical activity shall not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
- b. All students in grades K - 5/6 shall be provided with a daily recess period at least twenty (20) minutes in duration. Recess shall not be used as a reward or punishment.
- c. In addition to planned physical education, the school shall provide age-appropriate physical activities (e.g., recess during the school day, intramurals and clubs before and after school, and interscholastic sports) that meet the needs of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special health care needs.

C. With regard to other school-based activities:

- 1. Free drinking water shall be available to students during designated meal times and may be available throughout the school day.
- 2. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
- 3. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
- 4. An organized wellness program shall be available to all staff.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.

D. With regard to nutrition promotion, any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus, during the school day, will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. This includes marketing on school property, on educational materials, where food is purchased, in school publications and school media, and through fundraisers.

Additionally, the Corporation shall:

E. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods:

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. The sale of foods of minimal nutritional value in the food service area during the lunch period is prohibited.
- C. 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).
- D. The sale to students of foods and beverages that do not meet the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards to be consumed on the school campus during the school day is prohibited. Competitive foods available for purchase by students à la carte in the dining area, foods or beverages sold from vending machines, and foods and beverages provided by the school or school staff for classroom parties or holiday celebrations are subject to this prohibition.
- E. All foods that are provided, not sold, on the school campus during the school day, including foods and beverages provided for classroom parties or holiday celebrations shall comply with:

- 1. current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards;

2. the food and beverage standards approved by the Director of Finance.

- F. 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.
- G. 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 regardless of unpaid meal balances and without stigma.
- H. The food service program will provide information to families about free/reduced meal eligibility (e.g. sending applications home with all students once a year, posting the application on the school website, etc.).
- I. All food items and beverages available for sale to students for consumption on campus between midnight and thirty (30) 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 fundraisers by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs.
- 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 USDA professional standards.

The Board designates the Superintendent and the building principal(s) 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 the Corporation wellness committee that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, nutritionists or certified dietitians, educational staff (including health and physical education teachers), mental health and social services staff, 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. School-level health advisory teams may assist in the planning and implementation of these Wellness initiatives.

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. In its review, the Wellness Committee shall consider evidence-based strategies in determining its recommendations.

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 include information in the student handbook and post the wellness policy on the Corporation's website, including the assessment of the implementation of the policy prepared by the Corporation.

The Superintendent shall report on the Corporation's compliance with this policy and the progress toward achieving the goals set forth herein when requested to do so by the Board.

Review of this policy shall occur every two (2) years, by a committee appointed by the Board, consisting of a representative(s) of the Board, the administration, the food service provider, the parents, the students, and the public. The committee shall provide the Board with any recommended changes to this policy.

To ensure continuing progress, the Corporation will evaluate implementation efforts and their impact on students and staff using the following tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/shi/index.htm>.

The assessment shall be made available to the public on the School Corporation's website.

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Revised 5/19/14
Revised 8/15/16
Revised 8/21/17
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Legal	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