

WELLNESS POLICY**District Wellness Committee**

The Board shall form a district wellness committee to develop the wellness policy and perform additional duties described. The Board encourages parents, students, school food service representatives, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, school board members, school administrators, and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the school wellness policy.

The District Wellness Committee shall determine the best methods for these individuals and groups to participate in meetings and shall provide information about the participation processes to others using appropriate, effective, and cost-efficient methods.

The District Wellness Committee shall meet to develop a plan for implementing the wellness policy in each school. The implementation plan shall delineate roles, responsibilities, and timelines specific to each school and set goals and objectives in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

The District Wellness Committee shall work with the Principal to evaluate each implementation plan. The Principal shall designate one individual per school building to ensure building-level compliance with this policy. The name of each designee must be listed in administrative regulations (see ABEA-AR1). Each designee shall collect, summarize, and report evaluation data to the committee.

At least once every three years, the District Wellness Committee shall conduct an assessment of the wellness policy and comply with all reporting requirements mandated by federal law. The District Wellness Committee shall provide the assessment to the Board and disseminate it publicly.

The District Wellness Committee may recommend amendments to the wellness policy for board consideration, based on the results of the assessment; changes in district priorities; changes in community needs; changes in wellness goals; advances in health science, information, and technology; new federal or state guidance; or the issuance of new standards or regulations.

Annually, the District shall disseminate the wellness policy to staff, students, parents, and the public by posting on the district website. The District shall also inform parents regarding improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, the availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply; as well as the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (ABEA-AR3).

The District shall retain all wellness policy records mandated by federal law.

Physical Activity

In addition to state standards and mandates¹ related to physical education, the District should strive to make opportunities available for students to be physically active.

The goals of physical activity programs must be to:

1. Develop students' knowledge and skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities;
2. Assess, maintain and improve personal fitness;
3. Regularly participate in physical activity;
4. Understand the short- and long-term benefits of physical activity; and
5. Value and enjoy physical activity as an ongoing part of a healthy lifestyle.

Students with disabilities and other special health needs may participate as fully as possible in physical education and other school physical activity programs. Teachers and other school personnel should not withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education class) as punishment.

Nutrition Education and Promotion

The District shall teach, model, and support healthy eating in grades K-12 through the curriculum and through other promotional methods². The District should strive to:

1. Educate teachers and other staff members responsible for nutrition education;
2. Identify and implement methods to educate family members about district nutrition standards and goals as well as involve them in program development and implementation;
3. Integrate nutrition education into core curricula that is aligned with state standards and requirements;
4. Include developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant and participatory activities in the nutrition curriculum;
5. Provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health; and
6. Promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students as well as encourage participation in school meal programs.

The District Wellness Committee may develop a list of activities that will help the District achieve the above goals.

Other School-Sponsored Activities

The District shall seek to promote the physical activity and nutrition goals of this policy through other activities that are practical, implementable, and within district budgetary and statutory parameters. The goals of these other activities shall reinforce the nutrition promotion, nutrition education, and/or physical activity goals set forth above. Activities implemented under this provision may be offered to students, parents, and/or district staff.

The District Wellness Committee may develop activities and programs that will help the District achieve its goals. Such activities and programs may include before-school and

¹ <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SafeHealthy/HealthEducation/>

² <https://www.healthiergeneration.org/programs/>

after-school physical activities, active transport programs, staff wellness programs, staff professional development programs related to wellness, alternatives to using food as rewards, healthy celebration/party ideas and fundraisers, as well as community partnership programs.

Nutrition Standards

The District shall comply with applicable nutrition standards established in federal regulations for all reimbursable meals, e.g., the National School Breakfast and Lunch program. Non-food celebrations and rewards shall be promoted, and a list of ideas made available to staff and family members.

The District may also encourage fundraising ideas that are non-food related.

Exception to Competitive Food and Beverage Sales

Each school year, schools within the District may hold up to three fundraisers that do not comply with federal nutrition standards for competitive food and beverage sales. The Superintendent shall develop rules for requesting and receiving approval to hold fundraisers under this exception. The fundraiser may occur during school hours, but not during school mealtimes.

Standards for competitive food and beverage sales do not apply to foods and beverages sold off school grounds and foods and beverages sold on school grounds more than 30-minutes after the school day until midnight of the next school day.

Hydration Standards

To promote hydration, unflavored drinking water that is free must be made available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school. The District shall make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Marketing

The District permits the marketing of food items that meet or exceed the USDA's Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. All advertising and promotions of food items must be approved by the Superintendent, or an individual that has been appointed by the Superintendent to make such decisions. These standards do not apply to foods and beverages sold off school grounds.

Qualifications and Training

The District shall comply with applicable hiring requirements in federal regulations for new hires in the food service program. The District shall also comply with the annual training requirements in state law and federal regulations for all food service personnel.

Complementing NDSBA Templates (may contain items not adopted by the Board)

- ABEA-AR1, Building-Level Wellness Policy Coordinators
- ABEA-AR2, Physical Activity and Recess Regulations
- ABEA-AR3, Smart Snacks in Schools Regulations
- ABEA-E, Wellness Policy Assessment
- BBBB, School Board Committees
- BDA, Procedure for Adopting Board Policy
- BDBC, Citizens' Advisory Committees
- FGDB, Student Handbooks
- ABEB, Child Nutrition Programs

End of Sterling School District #35 Policy ABEA Adopted:4/22