

Policy 5030: Student Wellness

Status: ADOPTED

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The Board of Education of Tustin Unified School District recognizes the link between student health and learning and desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for District students. The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and align district efforts to support student wellness through health education, physical education and activity, health services, nutrition services, psychological and counseling services, and a safe and healthy school environment. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for promoting staff wellness and involving parents/guardians and the community in reinforcing students' understanding and appreciation of the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

School Wellness Council

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage parents/guardians, students, food and nutrition service employees, physical education teachers, school health professionals, Board members, school administrators, and members of the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the District's student wellness policy.

To fulfill this requirement, the Superintendent or designee may appoint a school wellness council or other District committee and a school wellness council coordinator. The council may include representatives of the groups listed above, as well as health educators, curriculum directors, counselors, before and after-school program staff, health practitioners, and/or others interested in school health issues.

The Superintendent or designee may make available to the public and school community a list of the names, position titles, and contact information of the school wellness council members.

The school wellness council shall advise the District on health-related issues, activities, policies, and programs. At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, the council's duties may also include the planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities to promote health within the school or community.

Goals for Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Other Wellness Activities

The Board shall adopt specific nutrition promotion and education goals, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The Board shall review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in developing such goals.

The District's nutrition education and physical education programs shall be based on research, consistent with the expectations established in the State's curriculum, frameworks and content standards, and designed to build the skills and knowledge that all students need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The nutrition education program shall include, but not be limited to, information about the benefits of healthy eating for learning, disease prevention, weight management, and oral health. Nutrition education shall be provided as part of the health education program and, as appropriate, shall be integrated into other academic subjects in the regular educational program, before-and after-school programs, summer learning programs, and school garden programs.

All students shall be provided opportunities to be physically active on a regular basis. Opportunities for moderate to vigorous physical activity shall be provided through physical education and recess and may also be provided through school athletic programs, extracurricular programs, before-and after-school programs, summer learning programs, programs encouraging students to walk or bicycle to and from school, in-class physical activity breaks, and other structured and unstructured activities.

The Board may enter into a joint-use agreement or memorandum of understanding to make District facilities or grounds available for recreational or sports activities outside the school day and/or to use community facilities to expand students' access to opportunities for physical activity.

Professional development may be regularly offered to the food and nutrition program director, managers, staff, health education teachers, physical education teachers, coaches, activity supervisors, and other staff as appropriate to enhance their knowledge and skills related to student health and wellness. In order to ensure that students have access to comprehensive health services, the District may provide access to health services at or near District schools and/or may provide referrals to community resources.

The Board recognizes that a safe, positive school environment is also conducive to students' physical and mental health and thus prohibits bullying and harassment of all students, including bullying on the basis of weight or health condition.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage staff to serve as positive role models for healthy eating and physical fitness. He/she shall promote work-site wellness programs and may provide opportunities for regular physical activity among employees.

Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods Available at School

For all foods and beverages available on each campus during the school day, the District shall adopt nutrition guidelines consistent with 42 USC 1758, 1766, 1773, and 1779 and all applicable State and federal regulations that support the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

In order to maximize the District's ability to provide nutritious meals and snacks, all District schools shall participate in available federal school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and after-school snack programs, to the extent possible. The District may sponsor a summer meal program when approved by the California Department of Education.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide access to free, potable water in the food service area during meal times in accordance with Education Code § 38086 and 42 USC 1758 and shall encourage students' consumption of water by educating them about the health benefits of water and by serving water in an appealing manner.

The Board believes that all foods and beverages sold to students at District schools, including those available outside the District's reimbursable food services program, should support the health curriculum and promote optimal health. Nutrition standards adopted by the District for foods and beverages provided through student stores, vending machines, or other venues shall meet or exceed state and federal nutrition standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage school organizations to use healthy food items or non-food items for fundraising purposes.

The Superintendent or designee shall also encourage school staff to avoid using non-nutritious foods as a reward for students' academic performance, accomplishments, or classroom behavior.

School staff shall encourage parents/guardians or other volunteers to support the District's food and nutrition program by considering nutritional quality when selecting any snacks which they may donate for occasional class parties. Class parties or celebrations shall be held after the lunch period when possible.

To reinforce the District's food and nutrition program, the Board prohibits the marketing and advertising of foods and beverages that do not meet nutrition standards for the sale of foods and beverages on campus during the school day.

Program Implementation and Evaluation

The Superintendent shall designate one person within the District School Wellness Council, as well as each school's principal, as the individuals responsible for ensuring that each school site complies with the District's student wellness policy. The Superintendent or designee shall assess the implementation and effectiveness of this policy at least once every three years.

The assessment shall include the extent to which District schools are in compliance with this policy, the extent to which this policy compares to model student wellness policies available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the student wellness policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall invite feedback on District and student wellness activities from food service personnel, school administrators, the School Wellness Council, parents/guardians, students, teachers, before-and after-school program staff, and/or other appropriate persons.

The Board and the Superintendent or designee shall establish indicators that will be used to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the District activities related to student wellness. Such indicators may include, but are not limited to:

1. Descriptions of the District's nutrition education, physical education, and health education curricula and the

extent to which they align with State academic content standards and legal requirements

2. An analysis of the nutritional content of school meals and snacks served in all District programs, based on a sample of menus and production records
3. Student participation rates in all school meal and/or snack programs, including the number of students enrolled in the free and reduced-price meals program compared to the number of students eligible for that program
4. The extent to which foods and beverages sold on campus outside the food and nutrition services program (such as through vending machines, student stores, or fundraisers) comply with nutrition standards
5. The extent to which other foods and beverages that are available on campus during the school day (such as foods and beverages for classroom parties, school celebrations, and rewards/incentives) comply with nutrition standards
6. Results of the State's physical fitness test at applicable grade levels
7. Number of minutes of physical education offered at each grade span and the estimated percentage of class time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity
8. A description of District efforts to provide additional opportunities for physical activity outside of the physical education program
9. A description of other Districtwide or school-based student wellness activities offered, including the number of sites and/or students participating, as appropriate

As feasible, the assessment report may include a comparison of results across multiple years, a comparison of District data with the county, statewide, or national data, and/or a comparison of student wellness data with other student outcomes such as academic indicators or student discipline rates.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall prepare and maintain the proper documentation and records needed for the administrative review of the District's student wellness policy conducted by the California Department of Education (CDE) every three years.

The assessment results of both the District and state evaluations shall be submitted to the Board for the purposes of evaluating policy and practice, recognizing accomplishments, and making policy adjustments as needed to focus District resources and efforts on actions that are most likely to make a positive impact on student health and achievement.

Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the public about the content and implementation of the District's student wellness policy and shall make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public on an annual basis. He/she shall also inform the public of the District's progress towards meeting the goals of the student wellness policy, including the availability of the triennial District assessment.

The Superintendent or designee shall distribute this information through the most effective methods of communication, which may include District or school newsletters, handouts, parent/guardian meetings, District and school websites, and other communications. Outreach to parents/guardians shall emphasize the relationship between student health and wellness and academic performance.

Each school may post a summary of nutrition and physical activity laws and regulations prepared by the CDE.

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall retain records that document compliance with 7 CFR 210.30, including, but not limited to, the written District's student wellness policy, documentation of the triennial assessment of the student wellness policy for each school site, and documentation demonstrating compliance with the community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the policy and assessment results available to the public.
