

WELLNESS POLICY

The Perry Public Schools Board of Education is committed to helping students and staff learn, establish, and maintain lifelong wellness patterns. Schools cannot achieve the primary mission of education if students and staff are not healthy and fit physically, mentally, and socially. Schools can improve the health of students and staff not only by educating them about the importance of healthy behaviors, but also by implementing policies that promote those behaviors.

Therefore, the district establishes the following policy to promote the health and wellness of students and staff and to ensure its schools comply with those standards established by federal and state law. Specifically, this policy requires all schools in the district to do the following:

- Allow parents, students, representatives of the nutrition services department, physical education teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, review, and update of the school wellness policy.
- Establish nutrition guidelines that meet or exceed the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) school meal requirements and the nutrition standards for competitive foods and beverages.
- Ensure compliance with federal and state requirements for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity and physical education, and other activities that promote student health.

NUTRITION

School Meal Requirements

The district will make nutritious foods available on campus during the school day to promote student and staff health. At a minimum, the district nutrition services department will serve reimbursable meals that meet the USDA requirements and follow the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA). Nutrition guidelines/standards will follow policy COA-R1 and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Specifically, the district will ensure that meals are the following:

- Accessible, appealing, and attractive;
- Served in a clean, pleasant, and supervised setting;
- High in fiber, free of added trans fats, and low in added fats, sugar, and sodium;
- Respectful of cultural diversity (e.g., students will be encouraged to suggest local, cultural, and favorite ethnic foods) and religious preferences;
- Reviewed by a registered dietitian or based on a meal plan provided by a professional resource (such as a State Department of Education, the USDA, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, or The Lunch Box).

The district will ensure that schools do the following:

- Encourage starting the day with a healthy breakfast; and
- Provide breakfast through the USDA School Breakfast Program.

Water: Schools will make clean drinking water available and accessible without restriction and at no charge at every district facility (including cafeteria and eating areas, classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, and faculty lounges) throughout the entire school day. Schools will also ensure the following:

- Students will be provided free drinking water in places where meals are served.
- Students will be allowed to bring drinking water to school and take water into the classroom, provided that the water is in a clear, capped container.

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- All water sources and containers will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene standards (including drinking fountains, water jugs, hydration stations, and other methods for delivering drinking water).

Information and Promotion: As required under the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR 210) the district will promote activities to involve students and parents in the National School Lunch Program. In addition, the district will do the following:

- Inform families about the availability of breakfasts for students;
- Distribute materials to inform the families of the availability and location of free summer food service program meals for students when school is not in session;
- Post information on the nutritional content and ingredients of school meals on menus in the cafeteria, on the district website, or websites of individual schools, or in school newsletters; and
- Make available applications for reimbursable meal programs to families and make application available on the district website.

Adequate Time to Eat: The district recommends students be allowed at least ten (10) minutes to eat breakfast and twenty (20) minutes to eat lunch from the time they are seated.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

All competitive foods and beverages sold to students during the school day must meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks standards.

Classroom Parties, Snacks, and Celebrations

The district will provide parents/guardians, students and teachers with a list of ideas for healthy food as well as non-food alternatives for classroom parties and celebrations. These foods and beverages, which meet the USDA’s Smart Snacks standards will be served during classroom parties, snacks, and celebrations, and must be in sealed, pre-packaged containers. A list of USDA Smart Snacks can be found at <http://www.fitpick.org/nwc/wp-content/uploads/2015FitPickProductList.pdf>

Nutrition Education

Schools will offer, and integrate when appropriate into the core curriculum, nutrition education to all grades (PreK-12), providing students the knowledge and skills necessary for lifelong healthy eating behaviors, including the following:

- What it means to eat healthfully, consume the proper nutrients, and maintain a wholesome and balanced diet;
- How to read labels and understand the problems associated with unhealthy food marketing to children.

In addition, schools will ensure that nutrition education accomplishes the following:

- Complies with state and federal learning objectives and standards;
- Provides opportunities for students to practice and apply the skills and knowledge taught in the classroom;
- Is made available to staff;
- Is promoted to families and the community.

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Nutrition and Health Food Promotion

The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices and appropriate portion sizes by doing the following:

- Exhibiting posters, signs, or other displays on the school campus that promote healthy nutrition choices;
- Providing age-appropriate activities, such as contests, food demonstrations, and taste-testing that promote healthy eating habits;
- Offering information to families (via communications with parents, educational workshops, screening services, and health related exhibitions and fairs) and encouraging them to teach their children about nutrition and healthy eating behaviors;
- Encouraging school staff to display healthy eating habits and physical activity choices to students (e.g., by consuming only healthy snacks, meals , and beverages in front of their students, sharing positive experiences about physical activity with their students, etc.)

Staff Qualifications and Training

The district will follow the USDA’s Professional Standards for State and Local Nutrition Programs in selecting local school nutrition program directors. The district will require all personnel in the school nutrition programs to complete annual professional development as required by USDA Professional Standards Continuing Education Requirements including basic nutrition, nutrition education, safe food preparation, and nutrition standards for healthy meals.

Farm-to-School Programs and School Gardens

The district will allow school gardens on district property. The following will also occur:

- The district will dedicate resources (e.g., tools, materials, volunteer hours, etc.) to build school gardens on district property or actively participate in community gardens by dedicating the same resources as would be required for gardens on district property.
- The district will incorporate local or regional products into the school meal program.
- Schools may take field trips to local farms.
- As part of their education, students will learn about agriculture and nutrition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

General Requirements

The district will ensure that all students (PreK-12) have the opportunity to participate in a minimum of sixty (60) minutes of physical activity each day, whether through physical education, exercise programs, after-school athletics, fitness breaks, recess, classroom activities, or wellness and nutrition education.

Physical activity opportunities will be accessible for students of all abilities and include a broad range of competitive and noncompetitive activities that help to develop the skills needed to participate in a lifetime of physical activities. When appropriate, physical activity will be integrated into the academic curriculum.

Recess and Physical Activity Breaks

Elementary school students (PreK-5) will participate in at least 150 minutes of physical activity and physical education per week throughout the entire school year.

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Recess: The district will require schools to provide elementary school students (PreK-6) at least twenty (20) minutes of recess each day (in addition to the physical education requirements). Additionally, the district will do the following:

- Develop indoor recess guidelines to ensure students can have adequate physical activity on days when recess must be held indoors;
- Recommend PreK-6 schools hold recess before lunch, in order to increase food consumption, reduce waste, and improve classroom attentiveness when students return from lunch.

Physical Activity Breaks: The district will require schools to provide all students (PreK-12) short breaks (3-5 minutes) throughout the day to let them stretch, move around, and break up their time spent sitting. These physical activity breaks may take place during or between classroom times.

Physical Education (PE)

The district will require all schools to establish a comprehensive, standards-based PE curriculum for each grade, PreK-6. Schools will ensure that PE classes and equipment will afford all students an equal opportunity to participate in PE.

In addition, the following requirements apply to all students (PreK-12):

- During PE, students will be given the opportunity to participate in many types of physical activity, including both cooperative and competitive games.
- Students will engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity for more than 50% of the PE class time.
- Only medical waivers/exemptions from participation in physical education will be allowed.

Teacher Qualifications, Training, and Involvement

Teachers will receive training on how to integrate physical activity into the curriculum. Some portions of this training will be incorporated into annual professional development.

Schools will allow teachers the opportunity to participate in or lead physical activities throughout the school day.

Punishment and Rewards

Physical activity will not be used or withheld as punishment. (This does not apply to participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements.)

The district will provide a list of alternative ways for teachers and staff to discipline students.

The district will strongly encourage teachers to use physical activity (e.g., extra recess) as a reward.

Grounds, Facilities, and Equipment

The district will ensure the availability or proper equipment and facilities that meet safety standards and will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

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Community Use of Recreational Facilities

The district will encourage school staff, students, and their families to participate in physical activity outside of the school day. Allowing staff, students, and their families to use school recreational facilities during non-school hours is one way to increase opportunities to engage in physical activity. Consistent with state law and district policies and procedure, *Guidelines for Use of School Facilities*, regarding use of school facilities during non-school hours, the district will work with the City of Perry and community-based organizations to coordinate and enhance opportunities for staff, students, and their families to engage in physical activity using school facilities before and after the school day, during weekends, and during school vacations.

Active Transportation

The district will do the following:

- Encourage children and their families to walk and bike to and from school;
- Work with local officials to designate safe or preferred routes to school;
- Promote National and International Walk and Bike to School Week/Day;
- Provide bike racks;
- Encourage parents to supervise groups of children who walk or bike together to and from school.

District Wellness Goals

1. The district will inform families about the availability of breakfast for students.
2. The district will distribute materials to inform families of the availability and location of free summer food service program meals for students when school is not in session.
3. The district will recommend students be allowed at least ten (10) minutes to eat breakfast and twenty (20) minutes to eat lunch from the time they are seated.
4. The district will ensure that all students (PreK-12) have the opportunity to participate in a minimum of sixty (60) minutes of physical activity each day.
5. The district will require schools to provide elementary students (PreK-6) at least twenty (20) minutes of recess each day.
6. The district will require schools to provide all students (PreK-12) short breaks (3-5 minutes) throughout the day to let them stretch, move around, and break up their time spent sitting.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE SCHOOL WELLNESS

District Wellness Committee

The membership of the district wellness committee shall consist of the “school officials” assigned to each school site’s healthy and fit school advisory committee/safe school committee. (See policy BDFD.) An assessment of the district’s wellness policy will be completed annually to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas of improvement. As part of that review, the district wellness committee will review nutrition and physical activity policies; review nutrition and physical education policies and program elements; and review environmental provisions that support healthy eating and physical activity. The School Physical Activity and Nutrition Policy and Environmental Assessment (PEA) will be a tool to assess the level of implementation of the policy and program elements. Results from this tool, as well as input from stakeholders, will be utilized to plan for future improvements. Results and information about the wellness policy and its implementation will be shared with the public.

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Health Education

Where applicable, health education curricula will follow the National Health Education Standards or the state-approved academic standards.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §1-107
70 O.S. §24-100.5
7 CFR, Parts 210 and 220
204 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

CROSS-REFERENCE: Policy BDFD, Healthy and Fit School Advisory Committee/Safe School Committee