

RIPLEY COUNTY R-IV SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

GOAL: The primary goals of Ripley County R-IV School District Wellness Program are to promote student health, facilitate student learning of lifelong healthy habits, and improve student achievement. The following procedure will guide the implementation of the district wellness program.

NUTRITION GUIDELINES

The District designates the following nutrition guidelines, based on the National School Lunch Program guidelines, for foods and beverages served in schools during the school day:

SCHOOL BREAKFAST – All school meals comply with USDA regulations and NSLP policies.

SCHOOL LUNCH – All school meals comply with USDA regulations and NSLP policies.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS SOLD IN VENDING MACHINES AND SCHOOL STORES:

Students will not have access to food sold in vending machines or food sold at/in school stores.

REWARDS, CELEBRATIONS, FUNDRAISERS, AND INTERAMURAL ACTIVITIES: All food and beverages are offered in compliance with USDA regulations prohibiting the sale of “foods of minimal nutritional value” where school meals are served or eaten during the meal period. Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to send healthy foods, and reasonable limits or restrictions on foods brought into the classroom will be set. Rewards, celebrations and parties will be scheduled after lunch periods. School officials must approve rewards, celebrations and parties to be held before lunch period.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

The districts nutrition education goal is to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to make healthy nutrition decisions. In order to achieve the nutrition education goal, the district will:

1. Provide students at all grade levels, to the extent possible, with adequate nutritional knowledge that may include, but not limited to:
 - The benefits of healthy eating
 - Safe food preparation, handling and storage
 - Principles of healthy weight management
 - Essential nutrients
 - Nutritional deficiencies
2. Provide students with nutrition-related skills that may include, but not be limited to the following:
 - Planning healthy meals
 - Understanding and use of food labels
 - Applying the principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) and MyPlate
 - Critically evaluating nutrition information and commercial food advertising
 - Assessing personal eating habits, nutrition goal setting and achievement
3. Provide 50 minutes of health to every student K-8th grade during the school week.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The district's physical activity goal is to assist students in learning the value and enjoy physical activity as an ongoing part of a healthy lifestyle by ensuring that every student has the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities, maintain physical fitness and regularly participate in physical activity. In order to achieve the physical activity goal, the district will:

1. Develop a program of appropriate physical education for every student. The Program will:
 - Provide 50 minutes of physical education for students in elementary students grades K-8 during the school week.
 - Emphasize knowledge and skill for a lifetime of regular physical activity.
 - Devote at least 40% of physical education time to actual physical activity in each week, with as much time as possible spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity.
 - Meet the needs of all students, especially those who are not athletically gifted or who have special needs.
2. Provide time in elementary schools for supervised recess. All students will have at least 40 minutes per day of supervised recess. When possible, recess will be scheduled after lunch and held outdoors.
3. Provide opportunities and encouragement for students to voluntarily participate in before- and after- school physical activity programs, and joint school and community recreational activities by:
 - Providing a diverse selection of competitive and non-competitive, as well as structured and unstructured, activities to the extent that staffing and district/community facilities permit.
 - Encouraging partnerships between school, recreation agencies and other community organizations to coordinate and enhance opportunities available to students or physical activity during their out-of-school time.
4. Discourage periods of inactivity that exceeds two or more hours. When activities such as mandatory school wide testing make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, staff should give students periodic breaks which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES

The district's goal for other school-based activities is to ensure and integrate whole-school approach to the district's wellness program. The district will achieve this goal by addressing the areas itemized below.

Stakeholders Involvement

- School instructional staff will collaborate with agencies and groups conducting nutrition education in the community to send consistent messages to students and their families. Guest speakers invited to address students will receive appropriate orientation to the relevant policies of the district.
- The wellness program shall make effective use of district and stakeholder resources and equitable serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences of gender, cultural norms, physical and cognitive abilities and fitness level.

FAMILY INVOLEMENT

The district will strive to engage families as partners in their children's education by supporting parental efforts to motivate and help their children with maintaining and improving their health, preventing disease and avoiding health-related risk behaviors. Strategies the district may implement to achieve family involvement may include, but are not limited to:

- Providing nutrition information to parents/guardians in the forms of newsletters, handouts, presentations or other appropriate means.
- Providing parents/guardians with ideas for healthy celebrations, parties, rewards and fundraising activities.
- Encouraging parents/guardians to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the district's nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages.
- Sharing information about physical activity and physical education via the district's newsletter, other take-home materials, special events or physical education homework.
- Encouraging parents/guardians to volunteer time in the classroom, cafeteria or at special events that promote student health.

MEAL TIMES

Students are not permitted to leave school campus during the school day to purchase food or beverages. Meal times will comply with the following guidelines:

1. Meal times will provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch.
2. Activities such as tutoring or meetings will not be held during meal times unless students may eat during such activities.
3. At the elementary level, lunch periods will be before recess period, when possible.
4. Drinking water will be available to students during meals.
5. Students will have access to hand-washing facilities before they eat meals or snacks.
6. Students will be allowed to converse during meals.
7. The cafeteria will be clean, orderly and inviting.
8. Adequate seating and supervision will be provided during meal times.

SUN SAFETY

"Sun safety" describes a range of behaviors that include wearing appropriate clothing, applying sunscreen and limiting sun exposure. The sun safety program will focus on outdoor behavior and will be developmentally appropriate, active, engaging and taught in lessons that emphasize the positive benefits of sun safety. Sun safety education will be designed to assist students with:

- Knowledge about the harmful effects of the sun and ways to protect skin.
- Sun-safe skills, including the correct use of protective clothing, hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and lip balm as well as seeking shade and limiting sun exposure when possible and practical during the hours of peak sun intensity.

TOBACCO

Tobacco use prevention education will focus on all grades with particular emphasis on 6th, 7th & 8th and reinforcement in all later grades. Instructional activities will be participatory and developmentally appropriate. Tobacco use prevention education programs will be implemented in accordance with Board policy, relevant administrative procedures and law.

OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION

The wellness program coordinators are responsible for monitoring implementation of the district wellness program by:

1. Assuming responsibility for the assessment of existing policies and procedures.
2. Prioritizing wellness goals and writing work plans for each goal.
3. Measuring implementation of the district wellness policy and procedure.
4. Ensuring that the district meets the goal of the wellness policy and procedure.
5. Reporting to the Board on compliance and progress annually.

MONITORING

The food service director/authorized representative will monitor food service areas for compliance with the district's nutrition guidelines and will report on this matter to the wellness program coordinators. The program coordinators will develop an annual summary report based on the district's compliance with the wellness policy. The report will be provided to the Board of Education and made available to the public by appropriate means.

COMPLIANCE INDICATORS

During initial development of the district's wellness-related policies and procedures, the district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity programs and practices. The wellness committee will compile these results. The committee will use the following indicators to measure the impact of the district wellness program.

1. Student absenteeism
2. Weight status or body mass index (BMI) of students
3. Fruit and vegetable intake of students and staff.
4. Achievement levels of students.

POLICY REVIEW

The wellness program coordinators will provide policy revision recommendations to the Board of Education based on the analysis of the compliance indicators as part of the annual report. The Board will revise the wellness policy, as it deems necessary. Administrative procedures will be revised accordingly.