

## WELLNESS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The link among nutrition, physical activity, and learning is well documented. Healthy eating and activity patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being. These patterns are also linked to a reduced risk for many chronic diseases.

The board of trustees is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and development of lifelong wellness practices. To accomplish these goals, the board of trustees sets forth the following components of its wellness policy:

**Component One.** The primary goal of nutrition education is to influence students' eating habits. The district will integrate nutrition education into classrooms as often as possible by using the Health In Action: A Strategic Implementation Guide, which is a set of lesson plans and activities provided by the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Healthy Schools, and Mississippi State Department of Health.

The cafeteria will serve as a learning laboratory to allow students to apply content knowledge and critical thinking skills taught in the classroom. Students will receive consistent nutrition messages in the school, classroom, and cafeteria. The district will also share nutrition education information with families and the broader community in an effort to positively impact students and the health of the community. Families and school staff will be **encouraged** to participate in school meal programs and **encouraged** to teach children about nutrition and to provide healthy food options at home. The district will ensure that all teachers and staff receive professional development training.

The district will continue to follow state board of education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales. The district will also establish guidelines for foods that available during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing obesity in children.

**Component Two.** Standard 33 of the Mississippi Public School Accountab

All instruction in physical education, health education and physical activity must be based on the most current state standards provided by the State Department of Education.

Each local school board shall, consistent with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education, adopt a school wellness plan which shall promote a healthy lifestyle for Mississippi's school children and staff. The school wellness plan shall also promote increased physical activity, healthy eating habits and abstinence from the use of tobacco and illegal drugs through programs that incorporate healthy lifestyle choices into core subject areas which may be developed in partnership with the Institute for America's Health.

Each school will follow the appropriate guidelines as outlined in Mississippi Department of Education/Comprehensive Education Rules and Regulations (see Appendix B) and Mississippi Healthy Students Act: Frequently Asked Questions (see Appendix C).

The local school board of each school district shall establish a local school health council for each school which shall ensure that local community values are reflected in the local school's wellness plan to address school health.

**Component Three.** It is necessary and important to establish nutrition standards for all foods available at school during the school day. The board of trustees is committed to promoting policies that will make healthy food choices available to promote lifelong healthy eating habits while ensuring that all necessary nutrients are provided. A variety of choices shall be given that includes fresh leafy vegetables, fruit, 100% fruit juices, nuts, fresh salads, water, trail mix, beef jerky, reduced-fat dairy products, whole grains and other foods that contain essential vitamins and minerals. One of the board's objectives is to educate students and parents about food consumption behavior to influence healthier choices. The board is committed to offer solutions to provide the healthiest choices available on school campuses during the school day, at after-school programs, and extracurricular activities to meet its wellness goals.

The district is committed to providing adequate time for students to eat and enjoy school meals. Students will be encouraged to make food selections based on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans by emphasizing healthy menu options. School-based organizations and parent-affiliated groups are encouraged to use services, contests, non-food items, or healthy foods for fundraising activities. Vegetarian and meat-free choices will continue to be provided to students who wish to participate.

The district will continue to offer a school breakfast and lunch program with menus that meet the

The district will continue to operate child nutrition programs with qualified, professional school foodservice staff. Food safety is a key component of school food operations.

**Component Four.** It is necessary and important to set goals for other school-based activities designed to promote student wellness. Professional development for food service staff in the areas of nutrition, food safety, food preparation and other related areas shall be on-going. Students shall have access to physical activity facilities with appropriate supervision which includes, but is not limited to existing after-school sports programs in the local schools. Information will be provided to the school community, including parents, students, staff, teachers, and community members, that promotes healthy lifestyles.

The board of trustees is committed to implementation of the wellness policy. Parents, district employees, and community persons served on the committee to develop and implement the wellness policy. The superintendent or his designee shall be responsible for ensuring that the wellness policy is implemented in accordance with the policy and procedures. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent and in accordance with state law, the board will establish and support a local health council in each school that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including the wellness policy. This policy will be reviewed annually.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi

LEGAL REF: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265; House Bill 319

DATE: March 1, 2016

## Wellness Policy Procedures

## High

Bottled water

No or low calorie beverages with up to 10 calories/8 ounces

Up to 12 ounce servings of milk, 100% juice, light juice and sports drinks

Low fat and non fat regular and flavored milk with up to 160 calories/8 ounces

100% juice with no added sweeteners and up to 120 calories/8 ounces

Light juices and sports drinks with no more than 66 calories/8 ounces At least 50% of beverages must be water and no or low calorie options (see Beverage Regulations for Mississippi Schools, Appendix C).

**Component Three:** It is necessary and important to establish nutrition standards for all foods available on school campus during the school day. As of July 1, 2014, the Smart Snacks in School standards, published by the USDA, ensures that all other snack foods and beverages available for sale to students in school are tasty and nutritious. According to federal reain C5

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi  
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