

Local Wellness Program

The district's comprehensive age-appropriate nutrition program will be implemented in district schools in accordance with the following requirements:

Definitions

1. "Accompaniment foods" means food items served along with another food to enhance palatability such as butter, jelly, cream cheese, salad dressing, croutons and condiments.
2. "Combination foods" means products that contain two or more components representing two or more of the recommended food groups: fruit; vegetable; dairy; protein; or grains.
3. "Competitive foods" means any food or drink sold in competition with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during the school day.
4. "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" means the current set of recommendations of the federal government that are designed to help people choose diets that will meet nutrient requirements, promote health, support active lives and reduce chronic disease risks.
5. "Entree item" means an item that is either:
 - a. A combination food of meat or meat alternate and whole grain rich food; or
 - b. A combination food of vegetable or fruit and meat or meat alternate; or
 - c. A meat or meat alternate alone with the exception of yogurt, low-fat or reduced fat cheese, nuts, seeds and nut or seed butters and meat snacks (such as dried beef jerky)
6. "Food service area" means any area on school premises where NSLP meals are both served and eaten, as well as any areas in which NSLP meals are either served or eaten.
7. "Meal period" means the period(s) during which breakfast or lunch meals are served and eaten, and as identified on the school schedule.
8. "Nutrition education" means a planned sequential instructional program that provides knowledge and teaches skills to help students adopt and maintain lifelong healthy eating habits.
9. "Oregon Smart Snacks"¹ means the minimum nutrition standards for competitive foods and beverages.

¹ Oregon Department of Education, www.ode.state.or.us

10. “School day” means a student education day beginning at midnight and ending at the conclusion of after school student activities, such as athletic, music or drama practices, clubs, academic support and enrichment activities.
11. “Snack” means a food that is generally regarded as supplementing a meal and includes, but is not limited to, chips, crackers, doughnuts, cookies, pastries, cinnamon rolls and candy.

Nutrition Promotion and Nutrition Education

Nutrition promotion and nutrition education shall focus on students’ eating behaviors, be based on theories and methods proven effective by research and be consistent with state and local district health education standards. Nutrition education at all levels of the district’s curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the following essential components designed to help students learn:

1. Age-appropriate nutritional knowledge, including the benefits of healthy eating, essential nutrients, nutritional deficiencies, principles of healthy weight management, the use and misuse of dietary supplements, safe food preparation, handling and storage and cultural diversity related to food and eating;
2. Age-appropriate nutrition-related skills, including, but not limited to, planning a healthy meal, understanding and using food labels and critically evaluating nutrition information, misinformation and commercial food advertising; and
3. How to assess one’s personal eating habits, set goals for improvement and achieve those goals.

In order to reinforce and support district nutrition education efforts, the principal is responsible for ensuring:

4. Nutrition instruction is closely coordinated with the school’s nutrition and food services operation and other components of the school health program to reinforce messages on healthy eating and includes social learning techniques. To maximize classroom time, nutrition concepts shall be integrated into the instruction of other subject areas where possible;
5. Links with nutrition service providers (e.g., qualified public health and nutrition professionals) are established to: provide screening, referral and counseling for nutritional problems; inform families about supplemental nutritional services available in the community (e.g., SNAP, local food pantries, summer food services program, child and adult care food program), and implement nutrition education and promotion activities for school staff, Board members and parents/guardians;
6. In keeping with the district’s nutrition program goals, all classroom reward or incentive programs involving food items are reviewed for approval to ensure that the foods served meet the requirements of the district’s nutrition policy and regulation (i.e., all foods served fit in a healthy diet as recommended in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, and contribute to the development of lifelong healthy eating habits for the district’s students);
7. Child Nutrition Staff support nutrition education by marketing healthy meals and providing nutrition information to students and families.

Physical Activity

In order to insure students are afforded the opportunity to engage in physical activity in the school setting, the following guidelines apply:

1. Physical activity will be integrated across curricula and throughout the school day. Movement will be made a part of science, math, social studies and language arts;
2. Physical education will be a course of study that focuses on students' development of motor skills, movement forms and health related fitness;
3. Physical education courses will be the environment where students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate motor skills, social skills and knowledge;
4. All physical education classes will be taught by highly qualified physical education instructors.
5. A daily recess period will be provided which will not be used as a punishment or a reward.
6. Physical education instruction shall be a sequential, developmentally appropriate curriculum that is designed, implemented and evaluated to help students develop the knowledge, motor skills, self management skills, attitudes and confidence needed to adopt and maintain physical activity throughout their lives.

Nutrition Guidelines and Food Services Operation

In order to support the school's nutrition and food services operation as an essential partner in the educational mission of the district and its role in the district's comprehensive nutrition program, the principal is responsible for ensuring:

1. The school encourages all students to participate in the school's NSLP meal opportunities;
2. The school notifies families of need-based programs for free or reduced-price meals and encourages eligible families to apply;
3. The school's NSLP maintains the confidentiality of students and families applying for or receiving free or reduced-priced meals in accordance with the National School Lunch Act;
4. The school's NSLP operates to meet dietary specifications in accordance with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and applicable state laws and regulations;
5. The school sells or serves varied and nutritious food choices consistent with the applicable federal government *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. A nutrition committee comprised of students, family members and school personnel will be encouraged to provide input in menu planning for districts operating their own food service component of the NSLP (i.e., food services purchasing, menu planning, food production and meal service). Cultural norms and preferences will be considered;
6. Food prices set by the district are communicated to students and parents/guardians. District pricing strategies will encourage students to purchase full meals and nutritious items;

7. Procedures are in place for providing to families, on request, information about the ingredients and nutritional value of the foods served;
8. Modified meals are prepared for students with special food needs:
 - a. The district will provide substitute foods to students with disabilities upon written parental permission and a medical statement by a physician that identifies the student's disability, states why the disability restricts the student's diet, identifies the major life activity affected by the disability, and states the food or foods to be omitted and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted;
 - b. Such food substitutions will be made for students without disabilities on a case-by-case basis when the parent submits a signed request that includes a medical statement signed by a physician, physician assistant, registered dietitian or nurse practitioner. The medical statement must state the medical condition or special dietary need that restricts the student's diet and provide a list of food(s) that may be substituted in place of the lunch or breakfast menu being served.
9. Food service equipment and facilities meet applicable local and state standards concerning health, safe food preparation, handling and storage, drinking water, sanitation and workplace safety;
10. Students are provided adequate time and space to eat meals in a pleasant and safe environment. School dining areas will be reviewed to ensure:
 - a. Tables and chairs are of the appropriate size for students;
 - b. Seating is not overcrowded;
 - c. Students have a relaxed environment;
 - d. Noise is not allowed to become excessive;
 - e. Rules for safe behavior are consistently enforced;
 - f. Tables and floors are cleaned between meal periods;
 - g. The physical structure of the eating area is in good repair;
 - h. Appropriate supervision is provided.
11. The guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 of the Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1779) and sections 9(f)(1) and 17(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(f)(1), 1766(a)), as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.

School Employee Wellness

The district's school employee wellness program may include the following:

1. Health education and health promoting activities that focus on skill development and lifestyle behavior that change along with awareness building, information dissemination, access to facilities, and preferably are tailored to employee's needs and interests;
2. Safe, supportive social and physical environments including organizational expectations about healthy behavior and implementation of policy that promote health and safety and reduce the risk of disease;

3. Linkage to related programs such as employee assistance programs, emergency care and programs that help employees balance work life and family life;
4. Education and resources to help employees make decisions about health care;
5. Nutrition and fitness educational opportunities that may include, but are not limited to, the distribution of educational and informational materials, and the arrangement of presentations and workshops that focus on healthy lifestyles, health assessments, fitness activities and other appropriate nutrition and physical activity related topics.

The district encourages participation from all employees, employees are not limited to instructional staff (i.e., teachers and instructional assistants) but include administrators and all support staff. The following groups are seen as essential for establishing, implementing and sustaining an effective school employee wellness program: school personnel who implement existing wellness programs in the district, i.e., school employee wellness committee and they may be the district personnel who implement health programs for students such as, but not limited to, school health coordinator, school nurses, psychologist, health and physical educators, nutrition professionals, counselors and other school staff. These groups may include decision makers who have the authority to approve policy and provide administrative support essential for a school wellness program such as, but not limited to, board members, superintendents, human resource administrators, fiscal services administrators and building principals.

Other School-Based Activities

The district will provide activities and encourage practices which promote local wellness.

Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) and Competitive Food Sales

In keeping with federal regulations, the district controls the sale of all competitive foods.

Accordingly, the district will select food items that meet the Oregon Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

The sale of foods in competition with the district's NSLP meals shall be permitted when all income from the food sales accrues to the benefit of the district's nutrition and food services operation or a school or student organization as approved by the Board.

Other Foods Offered or Sold

Foods offered in classrooms or school-sponsored activities and food and beverage items sold after the school day, as defined in Definitions of this AR, as part of an approved school fund-raising event ~~shall~~ are encouraged to meet minimum state requirements pursuant to Oregon Smart Snacks.

Staff Development

Ongoing pre-service and professional development training opportunities for staff will be encouraged. Staff responsible for nutrition education will be encouraged to participate in professional development activities to effectively deliver the nutrition education program as planned. Nutrition and food services personnel receive opportunities to participate in professional development activities that address strategies for promoting healthy eating behavior, food safety, maintaining safe, orderly and pleasant eating environments and other topics directly relevant to the employee's job duties. The principal and district nutrition program coordinator are responsible to ensure such training is made available including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Personnel management;
2. Financial management and record keeping;
3. Cost- and labor-efficient food purchasing and preparation;
4. Sanitation and safe food handling, preparation and storage;
5. Planning menus for students with special needs and students of diverse cultural backgrounds;
6. Customer service and student and family involvement;
7. Marketing healthy meals;
8. Principles of nutrition education, including selected curriculum content and innovative nutrition teaching strategies; and
9. Assessment by staff of their own eating practices and increased awareness of behavioral messages staff provide as role models.

Family and Community Involvement

In order to promote family and community involvement in supporting and reinforcing nutrition education in the schools, the principal is responsible for ensuring:

1. Nutrition education materials and cafeteria menus are sent home with students;
2. Parents/guardians are encouraged to send healthy snacks/meals to school;
3. Parents/guardians and other family members are invited to periodically eat with their student in the cafeteria;
4. Families are invited to attend exhibitions of student nutrition projects or health fairs;
5. Nutrition education workshops and screening services are offered;

6. Nutrition education homework that students can do with their families is assigned (e.g., reading and interpreting food labels, reading nutrition-related newsletters, preparing healthy recipes, etc.);
7. School staff are encouraged to cooperate with other agencies and community groups to provide opportunities for student volunteer or paid work related to nutrition, as appropriate;
8. School staff encourages and provides support for parental involvement in their children's physical education; and
9. Materials promoting physical activity are sent home with students.

Program Evaluation

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the local wellness program in promoting healthy eating, increased physical activity among students and to implement program changes as necessary to increase its effectiveness, the superintendent or designee is responsible for ensuring:

1. Board policy and this administrative regulation are implemented as written;
2. All building, grade-level nutrition education curricula and materials are assessed for accuracy, completeness, balance and consistency with state and local district educational goals and standards;
3. Nutrition education is provided throughout the student's school years as part of the district's age-appropriate, comprehensive nutrition program;
4. Teachers deliver nutrition education through age-appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities that include social learning strategies and activities;
5. Teachers and school nutrition and food services personnel have undertaken joint project planning and action;
6. Teachers have received curriculum-specific training;
7. Teachers provide physical activity instruction and programs that meet the needs and interests of all students;
8. Families and community organizations are involved, to the extent practicable, in nutrition education; and
9. One or more persons within the district or at each school, as appropriate, will be charged with the operational responsibility of ensuring that the policy and administrative regulations are followed and will develop an evaluation plan to be used to assess the district's level of compliance with state and federal requirements.