

Eureka School District

Adopted on: 10/13

Reviewed on:

2510 – R

INSTRUCTION

Revised on: 10/13/15, 6/2017

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Wellness

As part of the student fundamental mission, the District's goal is to provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive adults.

Nutrition Education and Promotion. The District aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise), and;
- Includes training for teachers and other staff.

Food Marketing in Schools. The District shall monitor all food and beverages sold or served to students, including those available outside the federally regulated child nutrition programs (i.e., a la carte, vending, student stores, classroom rewards, fundraising efforts), by meeting the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards. Snacks provided to students during the school day without charge (e.g. class parties) will meet standards set by the district. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotions. As such, schools will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for food and beverages sold individually.

Eureka Elementary School. The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food in the elementary school will be sold as balanced meals.

Middle/Junior High and high Schools. In middle/junior high and high school, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day, will meet nutrition and portion size standards.

Snacks. Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will provide a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutrition needs, children's ages, and other considerations.

School Lunch Program. Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- Be appealing and attractive to children;
- Be served in clean and present settings;
- Meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations;
- Offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- Serve only low-fat (2%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (to be defined by USD), and;
- Ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain.

Schools should encourage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys, in selecting foods sold through the school meal programs in order to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices. In addition, the schools will share information about the nutritious meals with parents and students. Such information is made available on menus, the school website, and on cafeteria menus.

Breakfast. To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn;

- Eureka Schools will, to the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program;
- Eureka Schools will, to the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast during morning break or recess, and;
- Eureka Schools will notify parents and student of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.

Free and Reduced-priced meals. The District will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Toward this end, schools will utilize electronic identification and payment systems to promote the availability of school meals to all students.

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff. Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, Eureka Public Schools will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, school nutrition managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting. For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity (i.e., at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical fitness activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- Classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce the time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television;

- Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, and;
- Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Student Health. The District highly values the health and well-being of every student. The District will take appropriate measures to address student health issues that arise in the school setting. The Superintendent will develop procedures for addressing student health issues that may arise.

Staff Wellness. The District highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The District will establish and maintain a staff wellness committee composed of at least one staff member, school nurse, nutrition specialist or other health professional, athletic director, union representative, and employee benefits specialist. The committee will develop, promote, and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness. The plan will include an incentive for wellness by giving employees the opportunity to leave for physical activity when the student school day ends if no other obligations interfere. The plan should be based on input solicited from school staff and should outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among school staff. The staff wellness committee should distribute its plan to the staff.

Physical Education (P.E.) K-12. All physical education will be taught by a certified physical education teacher. Student involvement in other activities involving physical activity (i.e., interscholastic or intramural sports) will not be substituted for meeting the physical education requirements. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Daily Recess. All elementary students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity and through the provision of space and equipment.

Schools should discourage extended periods (i.e., period of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, the District will give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School. The elementary, middle, and high school will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such a physical activity clubs or intramural programs including the Outdoor Club. The high school, and middle school as appropriate, will offer interscholastic sports programs.

Use of School Facilities Outside of School Hours. School spaces and facilities will be available to students, staff, and community members before, during, and after the school day, on weekends, and during school vacations. These spaces and facilities will also be available to community agencies and organizations offering physical activity and nutrition programs. School policies concerning safety will apply at all times. Agencies will be required to complete a facility use agreement form.

Legal References: P.L. 108-265 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004
 P.L. 111-296 The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010