

STUDENT WELLNESS

Goals

Based on review and consideration of evidence-based strategies and techniques, the Essex County School Board establishes the following goals to promote student wellness.

Nutrition Promotion and Education

- Students receive nutrition education that teaches the skills they need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors.
- Nutrition education is offered in the school cafeteria as well as in the classroom, with coordination between the foodservice staff and other school personnel, including teachers.
- Students receive consistent nutrition messages from all aspects of the school program.
- Division health education curriculum standards and guidelines address both nutrition and physical education.
- Nutrition is integrated into the health education or core curricula (e.g., math, science, language arts).
- Schools link nutrition education activities with the coordinated school health program.
- Staff who provide nutrition education have appropriate training.
- The level of student participation in the school breakfast and school lunch programs is appropriate.
- Schools are enrolled as Team Nutrition Schools, and they conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve parents, students and the community.

Physical activity

- Students are given opportunities for physical activity during the school day through physical education (PE) classes, daily recess periods for elementary school students and the integration of physical activity into the academic curriculum where appropriate.
- Students are given opportunities for physical activity through a range of before-and/or after-school programs including, but not limited to, intramurals, interscholastic athletics and physical activity clubs.

- Schools work with the community to create ways for students to walk, bike, rollerblade or skateboard safely to and from school.
- Schools encourage parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models and to include physical activity in family events.
- Schools provide training to enable staff to promote enjoyable, lifelong physical activity among students.

Other school-based activities

- An adequate amount of time is allowed for students to eat meals in adequate lunchroom facilities.
- All children who participate in subsidized food programs are able to obtain food in a non-stigmatizing manner.
- The availability of subsidized food programs is adequately publicized in ways designed to reach families eligible to participate in the programs.
- Environmentally-friendly practices such as the use of locally grown and seasonal foods, school gardens and nondisposable tableware have been considered and implemented where appropriate.
- Physical activities and/or nutrition services or programs designed to benefit staff health have been considered and, to the extent practical, implemented.

Nutrition Standards and Guidelines

The Essex County School Board incorporates and adopts the nutrition standards in 8 VAC 20-740-10 through 8 VAC 20-740-40.

The superintendent is responsible for creating

- A. regulations to develop and implement standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day; and
- B. standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day that promote student health and reduce childhood obesity and are consistent with the applicable standards and requirements in 7 C.F.R. §§ 210.10, 210.11 and 220.8.

Marketing on the school campus during the school day is permitted only for those foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards under 7 C.F.R. § 210.11, serve to promote student health, reduce and prevent childhood obesity, and combat problems associated with poor nutrition and physical inactivity.

Implementation

The Essex County School Board encourages parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, school administrators and the general public to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of this policy.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing and enforcing this policy. The implementation of the policy is measured by indicators that will be used to measure its success.

The public is informed about the content and implementation of the policy by the district through electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The district will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating other important school information with parents.

Implementation procedures include measuring and making available to the public, at least once every three years, an assessment of the implementation of the policy, including the extent to which schools are in compliance with the policy, the extent to which this policy compares to model school wellness policies and a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the policy. The results of the triennial assessment are considered in updating the policy.¹

The process for monitoring compliance with this policy is that the superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance to the school district superintendent or designee. The food service staff, at the school will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the Child Nutrition Supervisor. The Child Nutrition Supervisor will report on compliance matters to the Superintendent or designee.

The Essex County School Board retains the following records to document compliance with 7 C.F.R. § 210.31:

- the policy;
- documents demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the policy and triennial assessments available to the public; and
- documentation of the triennial assessment of the policy.

Adopted: April 9, 2012

Revised: September 11, 2017

October 8, 2018

August 12, 2019

August 9, 2021

Legal Refs: 42 U.S.C. § 1758b.

7 C.F.R. 210.31.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-207.4.

8 VAC 20-740-30.

8 VAC 20-740-40.

Cross Refs: EFB

IGAE/IGAF

JL

KQ

Food Services

Health Education/Physical Education

Fund Raising and Solicitation

Commercial, Promotional and Corporate

Sponsorships and Partnerships