

CIRCLES OF SUCCESS LEARNING ACADEMY - WELLNESS POLICY

The wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 and further strengthened by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). It requires each LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to develop a wellness policy. The final rule expands the requirements to strengthen policies and increase transparency. The responsibility for developing, implementing, and evaluating a wellness policy is placed at the local level, so the unique needs of each school under the LEA's jurisdiction can be addressed.

Therefore, Circles Of Success is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness practices.

To accomplish these goals:

- Our School Nutrition Programs shall comply with federal, state and local requirements.
- Our School Nutrition Program shall be accessible to all children.
- Sequential and interdisciplinary nutrition education is provided and promoted.
- Patterns of meaningful physical activity connect to students' lives outside of physical education.
- All school-based activities are consistent with local wellness policy goals.
- All foods and beverages made available on campus (including concessions, parties, and fundraising) during the school day are consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- All foods made available on campus adhere to food safety and security guidelines.
- The school environment is safe, comfortable, pleasing, and allows adequate time and space for eating meals.

COMMITMENT TO NUTRITION

COSLA shall offer school meal and snack programs with menus that meet the patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and State Board of Education's Minimum Nutritional Standards For Individual Food Items Sold Or Offered For Sale To Pupils In Pre-K Through Eight.

Our school administrative staff shall be responsible for overseeing the school's compliance with the State Board of Education Rules and Regulations for food items and that this Wellness Policy is being fulfilled by school staff.

EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF NUTRITION PROGRAM

COSLA shall monitor the effectiveness of the school nutrition program within a wide-range of student constituency groups. Factors to be considered may include, but are not limited to:

1. Participation rates in school meal programs;
2. Student satisfaction surveys to monitor the effects of consumption of healthy snacks on children's health, behavior, and school performance and to monitor satisfaction with snack choices;
3. Parent satisfaction surveys to monitor the effects of consumption of healthy snacks on children's health, behavior, and school performance and to monitor satisfaction with snack choices;
4. Teacher surveys of student's classroom behavior, attention span, and memory; and
5. Test scores.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

COSLA recognizes that physical activity is extremely important to the overall health of a child. Therefore, we support and promote physical activity. Physical activity is often integrated into any areas of the school program. Physical Education classes are offered with moderate to vigorous physical activity being an integral part of the class. Students are encouraged by staff, whenever possible, to be physically active. Supervised recess is offered daily to all elementary school children, depending on the weather.

CURRICULUM

All courses of study are based on Lifetime Wellness Curriculum Standards, the K-8 Healthful Living Curriculum Standards, and the K-12 Physical Education Curriculum Standards.

SCHOOL HEALTH INDEX

Beginning July 1, 2006, each school will begin implementation of the School Health Index. The State Board of Education Policy on Implementation of School Health Index shall be followed by each school within the district. (See, Tenn. State Board of Ed. Physical Activity Policy, Aug. 18, 2005).

Legal References

Federal Public Law (PL 108.265 Section 204); June 30, 2004 Child Nutrition and WIC

Reauthorization Act of 2004

State Board Rule Chapter 0520-1-6-.04 (TRR/MS 0520-1-6) and

Other State Board of Education, Policy 4.206, Physical Activity, August 18, 2005

NUTRITION EDUCATION

- Nutrition education will be integrated into other areas of the curriculum.
- The staff responsible for nutrition education will be adequately prepared and participate regularly in professional development activities to effectively deliver an accurate nutrition education program as planned.
- The school cafeteria serves as a “learning laboratory” to allow students to apply critical thinking skills taught in the classroom.
- Information will be provided to families and the broader community about health and nutrition with the goal of positively impacting students.
- All students will be encouraged to start each day with a healthy breakfast.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Physical activity will be integrated across curricula and throughout the school day.
- Recess is a part of our daily school schedule.
- Physical activity participation will take into consideration the “balancing equation” of food intake and physical activity.
- Physical education includes the instruction of individual activities as well as competitive and non- competitive team sports to encourage life-long physical activity.
- The school provides a physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students.
- Information will be provided to families to help them incorporate physical activity into their student’s lives.
- Schools encourage families and community members to institute programs that support physical activity.

OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Contracts for after-school programs will encourage any agency providing snacks to students to comply with the wellness policy guidelines.
- Local wellness plan goals are considered in planning all school-based activities.
- Support for the health of all students is demonstrated by helping to enroll eligible children in Medicaid and other state children’s health insurance programs.
- School Improvement Plan must address wellness, nutrition, and exercise

NUTRITION GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOODS ON CAMPUS

- All foods offered during the school day will comply with the current USDA Guidelines for Americans and current Tennessee State Board of Education rules regarding nutrition quality standards for K-8 schools.
- Classroom snacks feature healthy choices.
- Foods and beverages sold at fundraisers include healthy choices and provide age-appropriate selections for elementary schools, middle schools and high schools.
- Advertising messages are consistent with and reinforce the objectives of the education and nutrition environment goals of the school.
- Teachers will seek alternatives to food as a reward or a punishment for student behaviors, unless it is detailed in a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

EATING ENVIRONMENT

- Students should be provided adequate time to eat lunch and breakfast.
- Lunch periods are scheduled as near the middle of the school day as possible.
- Dining areas are attractive and have enough space for seating students.
- Drinking water is available for students at meals.

CHILD NUTRITION OPERATIONS

- The child nutrition program will ensure that all students have affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to stay healthy and learn well.
- The school will strive to increase participation in the available federal Child Nutrition programs.
- COSLA shall employ a food kitchen manager who is properly qualified, certified and/or credentialed according to current professional standards, to administer the school food service program and satisfy reporting requirements.

FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Foods made available on campus comply with state and local food safety and sanitation regulations. Classroom snacks should be commercially prepared food items.
- For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to all food service operations (School Nutrition, concessions stands, etc.) will comply with state and local food safety and sanitation regulations.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.