

## **Bradford School District Wellness Policy**

The health and physical well-being of our students directly affects their ability to learn. Childhood obesity increases the incidence of adult diseases occurring in children and adolescents such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The increased risk carries forward into their adulthood. Research indicates that a healthy diet and regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and the diseases resulting from it. It is understood that the eating habits and exercise patterns of student cannot be magically changed overnight, but at the same time, the board of directors and the wellness committee believes it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity.

The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The board is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and Department of Education, but with the community and its residents, organizations, and agencies. Therefore, the districts shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions which improve the health and physical activity of our students.

### **Goals**

In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity, the district will adhere to the Arkansas Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards in Arkansas Public Schools. Adhering to the Rules will include, but is not limited to district efforts to:

1. Appoint a district school health coordinator who shall be responsible for ensuring that each school fulfills the requirement of this policy;
2. Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum;
3. Enforce existing physical education requirements and engage students in health levels of vigorous physical activity;
4. Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers;
5. Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12;
6. Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom, or sports performances;
7. Ensure that drinking water is available without charge to all students;
8. Establish class schedules, and bus routes that don't directly or indirectly restrict meal access;

9. Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas;
10. Establish no more than nine (9) school wide events which permit exceptions to the food and beverage limitations established by Rule. The schedule of the events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar;
11. Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards;
12. Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas' or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la' carte foods served in the cafeteria;
13. Restrict access to vended foods, competitive foods, and foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV) as required by law and Rule;
14. Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence on profits from the sale of FMNV.
15. Provide professional development to all district staff on topics of nutrition and/or physical activity;
16. Utilize the School Health Index (SHI) available from Center for Disease Control (CDC) to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students.

### **Wellness Committee**

To enhance the district's efforts to improve the health of our students, a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee (SNPAAC) shall be formed. The district SNPAAC shall have subcommittees representing each school to ensure age-appropriate recommendations are made which correlate to our district's grade configurations. The SNPAAC shall have the powers and responsibilities delegated to it by statute and Rule and are incorporated into this policy by reference. The overarching goal of the committee shall be to promote student wellness by monitoring how well the district is doing at implementing this policy. The SNPAAC shall use modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the CDC's SHI as a basis for assessing each school's progress toward meeting the requirements of this policy. The results of the annual assessment shall be included in each school's INDISTAR, provided to each school's principal, and reported to the board. Goals and objectives for nutrition and physical activity shall also be included in the INDISTAR.

Parents, student, the District's teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the District School Board of Directors, the District's school administrators, members of the community, and representatives of the District's school food authority shall be included in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the District's wellness policy to the extent interested persons from each group desire to be included.

The SNPAAC shall provide recommendations to the school district concerning menus and other foods sold in the school cafeteria. Such recommendations shall be based, at least in part, on the information the Committee receives from the District on the requirements and standards of the National School Lunch Program and information and from menus for the National School Lunch program and other foods sold in the school cafeteria on a quarterly basis.

The District shall periodically assess, with input from the SNPAAC, the District and individual schools' status regarding implementing this policy. The assessment shall be based, in part, on:

- The extent to which District schools are in compliance with this policy;
- The extent to which the policy compares to other model local school wellness policies; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The assessment results along with the content of this policy shall be periodically reported to the public, including parents, students, and other members of the community.