



# LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY

## Mundelein Elementary School District 75

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b> .....	2
<b>Wellness Policy Committee</b> .....	2
Wellness Policy Leadership .....	2
Wellness Policy Committee Members .....	2
<b>Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities</b> .....	2
Public Involvement .....	2
Assessments.....	3
Updates .....	3
Records .....	3
<b>Nutrition</b> .....	4
Nutrition Standards .....	4
Nutrition Education.....	5
Nutrition Promotion .....	6
Marketing.....	6
<b>Physical Activity</b> .....	7
Physical Education .....	7
Other Opportunities for Physical Activity.....	7
Physical Activity Promotion .....	8
<b>Other School-Based Activities</b> .....	8

## **PREFACE**

In accordance with **7 CFR 210.31(c)**, a Local Education Agency (LEA) that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: *Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures; proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools' efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

## **WELLNESS POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Wellness Policy Leadership**

- **Cathy Johnson** – Chief Financial Officer / CSBO  
*Contact: cjohnson@d75.org*

### **Wellness Policy Committee Members**

- **Cathy Johnson** - Chief Financial Officer / CSBO
- **Patty DeLozier** - Registrar
- **Vittoria Carey** - Executive Assistant
- **Jill Mellender** - Dining Service Director

## **WELLNESS POLICY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Public Involvement**

The Local Education Agency permits and encourages public involvement in Local Wellness Policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, the LEA shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in Local Wellness Policy processes. The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes:

- Parent Letters

## **Assessments**

Under the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Mundelein Elementary School District 75 shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every three years. These assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy is in compliance with USDA, state, and local rules and regulations.
- Compare the LEA's wellness policy to model wellness policies.
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in the LEA's wellness policy.

## **Updates**

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate to fit the needs and goals of the Local Education Agency. Mundelein Elementary School District 75 (LEA) shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis.
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy.

These materials will be made available through the following channels:

- Board of Education Policy Readings
- Board of Education Public Meetings

## **Records**

The Local Education Agency shall maintain records of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy.
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public.
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process.

# **NUTRITION**

Mundelein Elementary School District 75 recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the positive effects of nutrition in the classroom; for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' success, attendance, and behavior.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 18.5 percent of the nation's youth were considered obese in 2015–16. Conversely, 15.7 percent of American families experienced food hardship in 2017. Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students to prevent both the overconsumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity, giving students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

## **Nutrition Standards**

### **Meals**

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (i.e., Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans-fat.

### **Competitive Foods**

All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (**7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)**). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e., locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e., from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). This includes, but is not limited to, vending machine and à la carte items.

### **Other Foods and Beverages**

The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students.

The Local Education Agency will prohibit the use of food as a reward or as part of a celebration. Providing alternatives to food as a reward promotes healthier habits by reducing exposure to less nutritious food items and, therefore, the amount of calorie-dense items consumed (e.g., cakes, cookies, candy, etc.). This helps children develop improved food preferences and healthy hunger cues to carry them throughout life. Instead, schools will implement the following methods for rewards and celebrations:

- Schools will utilize **Smart Snacks** at school celebrations.
- The Local Education Agency will prohibit food and beverage items that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards for reward and celebration purposes. More than 25 percent of children’s daily calories can come from snacks; therefore, providing Smart Snacks allows for a more nutrient-dense calorie intake.

## **Fundraisers**

All fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on the school campus (i.e., locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e., from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

The school shall also utilize non-food fundraisers to promote healthy habits and well-being. The school will implement non-food fundraising ideas, including the district's participation in:

- **Dunk for Diabetes**
- **Jump Rope for Heart**

## **Nutrition Education**

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Health Education. The Local Education Agency shall include nutrition education within the health education curriculum and integrate nutrition education into other core subjects, as appropriate. Various grade levels and curriculums shall use nutrition education information, research, and materials from the following resources:

- **Dietary Guidelines for Americans** and **MyPlate** resources.

The Local Education Agency shall incorporate nutrition education into designated grade-level curriculums through initiatives such as:

- **Wellness Wednesday**, which focuses on the body, mind, heart, and healthy eating.

## **Nutrition Promotion**

The District shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels, including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

The District shall make cafeteria menus and nutrition information available through the following platforms:

- The **Parent page** of the district website, under **Food Service and Menus**.

Farm to School efforts positively impact School Nutrition Programs by serving fresh, nutritious food items. Additionally, Farm to School programs have been linked to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. The District shall participate in the following Farm to School activities:

- Utilizing **school gardens** at select locations and covering **Farm to Table** units in the curriculum.

Food loss and waste continue to be major issues facing the nation's food supply. In order to prevent food waste, the District will make every effort to produce the precise number of meals needed on any given day by using production records and resources such as the USDA's Food Buying Guide. However, in the event that excess food remains, the District will continue to provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided through the USDA School Nutrition Programs. Therefore, the District shall follow an established food sharing plan in accordance with **Public Act 102-0359**, as well as federal and local regulations and sanitation codes:

- Schools utilize a **sharing table** where students can share extra, unconsumed food.

## **Marketing**

The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards on the school campus (i.e., locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e., from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day).

The marketing standards described above apply to, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement; however, the District shall implement these standards as equipment needs to be replaced in the future.

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity is a key component of the health and well-being of all students. Physical activity lowers the risk for certain diseases, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Physical activity also helps improve brain function, allowing students to perform better in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adolescents get at least 60 minutes of physical activity five days per week. Nearly 79 percent of school-age children fall short of meeting this requirement. The Local Education Agency recognizes this connection and commits to promoting and providing opportunities for physical activity during and outside the school day.

### Physical Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Physical Education. The LEA shall offer Physical Education class as follows:

- **Each grade level** participates in regularly scheduled PE classes.

### Other Opportunities for Physical Activity

The District shall include additional physical activity opportunities outside of Physical Education class during the school day through **Recess**.

The following opportunities for participation in school-based sports shall be offered to students each year:

- **Carl Sandburg Middle School** offers Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Cross Country, Wrestling, Poms, Cheer, and Soccer.
- **Mechanics Grove School** students may also participate in Track and Cross Country.
- **Intramural sports** and **athletic clubs** are also offered across the district.

## **Physical Activity Promotion**

The District shall promote physical activity through participation in the following initiative:

- **Girls on the Run**

## **OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES**

Just as it takes a comprehensive curriculum to support students' academic futures, the Local Education Agency's wellness approach must also be comprehensive in its intent to provide students with the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. In order to further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, the LEA commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The Local Education Agency shall offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events and clubs shall be organized and offered to students each year:

- **Girls on the Run**
- School **Field Days**