

WELLNESS POLICY

The North Union Elementary & High School Board of Education is committed to the optimal development of every student. The board believes for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, there needs to be a positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environment at every level, in every setting.

The school district provides a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors. The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school district goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity.

The following **Specific Wellness Goals** have been established:

- Nutrition Education and Promotion
- Encouraging Physical Activity
- Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness

Goal 1: NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

North Union School will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion of fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy foods, that help students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors.

Goal 2: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

North Union School will provide students and staff with age and grade appropriate opportunities to engage in physical activity that meet federal and state guidelines, including the Iowa Healthy Kids Act. The goal for addressing physical activity will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits.

Physical Activity

- The school district will provide at least thirty (30) minutes of physical activity per day for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Physical Education

The district will provide physical education that:

- Is for all students in grades K-5 for the entire school year;
- Is taught by a certified physical education teacher;
- Includes students with disabilities; students with special health-care needs may be provided with alternative educational settings; and
- Engages students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50 percent of physical education class time.

Daily Recess

Elementary schools will provide recess for students that:

- is at least twenty (30) minutes a day of physical activity through a combination of P.E., recess, classroom and other activities;
- is preferably outdoors;
- encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity; and
- discourages extended periods (i.e., periods of two (2) or more hours) of inactivity.

High school will have at least 120min. of physical activity through a combination of P.E., school, and non-school sponsored athletics and other activities where the body is exerted.

When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity and Discipline

Employees should not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) as disciplinary action. Withholding opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education) is discouraged.

Goal 3: OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE STUDENT WELLNESS

North Union School will support student, staff, and parents' efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle, as appropriate. The goals for addressing other school-based activities that promote student wellness include:

- Providing parents a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards for classroom snacks and celebrations.
- Providing school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children. Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment.

School Meals

Meals served by the school district to students will:

- be appealing and attractive to students;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by state and federal law;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- include low-fat and fat-free milk and nutritionally equivalent non-dairy alternatives (as defined by the USDA);
- encourage serving of whole grain products; and

Breakfast

North Union will offer breakfast to all students from 7:30-8:30. North Union School will:

- to the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program;
- notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program;

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

The school 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 meals. Toward this end, the district will utilize electronic identification and payment systems and promote the availability of meals to all students.

Sharing of Food

The school district discourages students from sharing foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies, spreading of germs and communicable diseases, and other restrictions on student diets.

Meal Times and Scheduling

The school district will do the following:

- provide students with adequate and appropriate time for meals;
- schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.;
- provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and

Qualification of Food Service Staff

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the meal programs. As part of the district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the district will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals and provide staff development programs and training programs for the Food Service Director and cafeteria workers, according to their level of responsibility.

Foods Sold Outside the Meal

All foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable meal programs to students on the school campus during the school day (including those sold through vending machines, student stores or fundraising activities) will be consistent with Federal regulations for :

- School meal nutrition standards; and the
- Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

As defined by the USDA, the school day is from midnight the day before school starts until 30minutes after the last bell.

Rewards

The school district encourages offering of non-food forms of rewards. If food or beverage rewards are used for academic performance or good behavior, they should conform to this policy. North Union will not withhold beverages or food as a punishment. A list of non-food reward ideas will be distributed to teachers and staff.

Celebrations

Parents and teachers are encouraged to offer foods and/or beverages that are consistent with federal standards listed in this policy. The food used in celebration practices should make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks. A list of healthy celebration ideas will be provided to parents and teachers.

Treats brought to school (e.g.; birthdays) should be prepackaged with the labeled ingredients attached. Home-made food or snacks are discouraged due to potential food allergies or illness.

Snacks

Classroom snacks brought by parents are encouraged to meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. The district will provide a list of healthy snack options.

Marketing of Food and Beverages

The District is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The District strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on District property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the District is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the District to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the District's wellness policy.

Food Safety

All foods made available on campus adhere to food safety and security guidelines.

- All foods made available on campus comply with the state and local food safety and sanitation regulations. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines are implemented to prevent food illness in schools.

- For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations are limited to child nutrition staff and authorized personnel.

Wellness Policy Committee

- The district will establish a local wellness policy committee that permits parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, review, and update of the local wellness policy.

The wellness committee will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these guidelines. The wellness committee will conduct an assessment of the wellness policy at a minimum of every 3 years to determine:

- Compliance with the wellness policy;
- How the policy compares to model wellness policies;
- Progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.
- The superintendent and principal, and the committee and/or designee, will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutritional and physical activity wellness policies.

Additionally, the following actions will occur:

- food service staff, at the school or district level, will ensure compliance with nutritional policies within food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent or principal;
- the school district will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes.

The wellness committee will make available to the public by posting on the school's website:

- The wellness policy;
- Any updates to and about the policy on an annual basis, at a minimum;
- Progress toward meeting the goals of the policy as determined by the wellness committee's assessment which is done at least every 3 years.