

Book
Policy Manual

Section
200 Pupils

Title
Student Wellness

Number
246

Status
Active

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Purpose

Ridgway Area School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

Authority

The Board adopts the Student Wellness Policy based on the recommendations of the appointed Wellness Committee and in accordance with federal and state laws.[\[1\]\[2\]](#)

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Board establishes that the district shall provide to students:

1. A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.
2. Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutritional guidelines.

3. Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day.
4. Curriculum and programs for grades K-12 that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to monitor district schools, programs, and curriculum to ensure compliance with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.[\[2\]](#)

Each building principal or designee shall report to the Superintendent or designee regarding compliance in his/her school.

Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness shall report to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of such programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on the district's compliance with law and policies related to student wellness. The report may include:

1. Assessment of school environment regarding student wellness issues.
2. Evaluation of food services program.
3. Review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines.
4. Listing of activities and programs conducted to promote nutrition and physical activity.
5. Recommendations for policy and/or program revisions.
6. Suggestions for improvement in specific areas.
7. Feedback received from district staff, students, parents/guardians, community members and the Wellness Committee.

The Superintendent or designee and the appointed Wellness Committee shall periodically conduct an assessment on the contents and implementation of this policy as part of a continuous improvement process to strengthen the policy and ensure implementation. The assessment shall include the extent to which district schools are in compliance with law and policies related to student wellness, and shall describe the progress made by the district in attaining the goals of this policy. The assessment shall be made available to the public.[\[2\]](#)

The district shall inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students, and others in the community, about the contents and implementation of this policy.[\[2\]](#)

Guidelines

Wellness Committee

The Board shall appoint a Wellness Committee comprised of at least one (1) of each of the following: School Board member, district administrator, district food service representative, student, parent/guardian, member of the public, teacher, school nurse and any other individuals chosen by the Board.

The district shall be required to permit physical education teachers and school health professionals to participate on the Wellness Committee.[\[2\]](#)

The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing, implementing and periodically reviewing and updating a Student Wellness Policy that complies with law to recommend to the Board for adoption.

The Wellness Committee may examine related research and laws, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing Board policies and administrative regulations, and raise awareness about student health issues. The Wellness Committee may make policy recommendations to the Board related to other health issues necessary to promote student wellness.

The Wellness Committee may survey parents/guardians and/or students; conduct community forums or focus groups; collaborate with appropriate community agencies and organizations; and engage in similar activities, within the budget established for these purposes.

The Wellness Committee shall provide periodic reports to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of its work, as required.

Nutrition Education

Nutrition education will be provided within the sequential, comprehensive health education program in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The goal of nutrition education is to teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students. Promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement.

Nutrition education shall provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives.

Nutrition education lessons and activities shall be age-appropriate.

Nutrition curriculum shall be behavior focused.

School food service and nutrition education classes shall cooperate to create a learning laboratory.

Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subjects to complement but not replace academic standards based on nutrition education.

The staff responsible for providing nutrition education shall be properly trained and prepared and shall participate in appropriate professional development. Criteria shall be developed to measure "properly" and "appropriate".

Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and the community.

Lifelong lifestyle balance shall be reinforced by linking nutrition education and physical activity.

Nutrition Promotion

The district aims to teach, encourage, and support healthful eating by students. District schools shall promote nutrition by providing appropriate nutrition education in accordance with the Student Wellness Policy.

District staff shall cooperate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition.

Consistent nutrition messages shall be disseminated throughout the district, schools, classrooms, cafeterias, homes, community and media.

Consistent nutrition messages shall be demonstrated by avoiding use of unhealthy food items in classroom lesson plans and school staff avoiding eating less healthy food items in front of students.

District schools shall encourage parents/guardians to provide healthy meals for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials, or other means.

Physical Activity

District schools shall strive to provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day for all students.

Students shall participate daily in a variety of age-appropriate physical activities designed to achieve optimal health, wellness, fitness, and performance benefits.

Age-appropriate physical activity opportunities, such as recess; before and after school; during lunch; clubs; intramurals; and interscholastic athletics, shall be provided to meet the needs and interests of all students, in addition to planned physical education.

A physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students shall be maintained.

Extended periods of student inactivity, two (2) hours or more, shall be discouraged.

District schools shall partner with parents/guardians and community members to institute programs that support physical activity.

Physical activity shall not be used as a form of punishment.

Physical Education

A sequential physical education program consistent with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented.[4][5][6]

Quality physical education instruction that promotes lifelong physical activity and provides instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation shall be provided.

Physical education classes shall be the means through which all students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

A comprehensive physical education course of study that focuses on providing students the skills, knowledge and confidence to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity shall be implemented.

A varied and comprehensive curriculum that leads to students becoming and remaining physically active for a lifetime shall be provided in the physical education program.

Adequate amounts of planned instruction shall be provided in order for students to achieve the proficient level for the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.

A local assessment system shall be implemented to track student progress on the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.

Students shall be moderately to vigorously active as much time as possible during a physical education class. Documented medical conditions and disabilities shall be accommodated during class.

Safe and adequate equipment, facilities and resources shall be provided for physical education courses.

Appropriate professional development shall be provided for physical education staff.

Physical education classes shall have a teacher-student ratio comparable to those of other courses.

Other School Based Activities

District schools shall provide adequate space, as defined by the district, for eating and serving school meals.

Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.

Students shall be provided adequate time to eat: twenty (20) minutes sit down time for lunch.

Meal periods shall be scheduled at appropriate hours, as defined by the district.

Drinking water shall be available at all meal periods (bottled water sold in cafeteria) and throughout the school day at water fountains.

Students shall have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals and snacks.

Nutrition professionals who meet criteria established by the district shall administer the school meals program.

Professional development shall be provided for district nutrition staff.

Access to the food service operation shall be limited to authorized staff.

Nutrition content of school meals shall be available to students and parents/guardians.

To the extent possible, the district shall utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.

The district shall provide appropriate training to all staff on the components of the Student Wellness Policy.

Food shall not be used as a reward or punishment.

Goals of the Student Wellness Policy shall be considered in planning all school based activities.

Fundraising projects during school hours submitted for approval shall be supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.

Administrators, teachers, food service personnel, students, parents/guardians, and community members shall be encouraged to serve as positive role models through district programs, communications and outreach efforts.

The district shall support the efforts of parents/guardians to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for children by communicating relevant information through various methods.

Nutrition Standard Guidelines

All foods available in district schools during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

Foods provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with established federal nutrition standards.[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

Competitive foods are defined as foods offered at school other than through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs and include a la carte foods, snacks and beverages; vending food, snacks and beverages; school store food, snacks and beverages; fundraisers; classroom parties and holiday celebrations.

All competitive foods available for sale to students in district schools shall comply with established federal and state nutritional guidelines.

The district may impose additional restrictions on competitive foods, provided that the restrictions are not inconsistent with federal requirements.[\[11\]](#)

Exclusive competitive food and/or beverage contracts shall be approved by the Board, in accordance with provisions of law.[\[12\]](#)

Management of Food Allergies in District Schools

The district shall establish Board policy and administrative regulations to address food allergy management in district schools in order to:[\[13\]](#)

1. Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.
2. Ensure a rapid and effective response in case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
3. Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

Safe Routes to School

The district shall cooperate with local municipalities, public safety agency, police departments, and community organizations to develop and maintain safe routes to school.

District administrators shall seek and utilize available federal and state funding for safe routes to school, when appropriate.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1422.1](#)

[2. 42 U.S.C. 1758b](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 1513](#)

4. Pol. 102

5. Pol. 105

6. 24 P.S. 1512.1
7. 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq
8. 42 U.S.C. 1773
9. 7 CFR 210.10
10. 7 CFR 220.8
11. 7 CFR 210.11
12. 24 P.S. 504.1
13. Pol. 209.1
7 CFR Part 210
7 CFR Part 220
24 P.S. 1337.1
24 P.S. 1422
Pol. 103
Pol. 103.1
Pol. 808
P.L. 111-296