

WELLNESS POLICY

The Mount Ayr 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. In accordance with law and this belief, the board commits to the following:

The school district will identify at least one goal in each of the following areas:

- **Nutrition Education and Promotion:** Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that helps students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors.
- **Physical Activity:** Schools will provide students with age and grade appropriate opportunities to engage in physical activity that meet the Iowa Healthy Kids Act.
- **Other School Based Activities that Promote Wellness:** As appropriate, schools will support students, staff, and parents' efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The following nutritional guidelines for food available on school campuses will be adhered to:

- Meals served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program will be appealing and meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by state and federal law;
- Schools providing access to healthy foods outside the reimbursable meal programs before school, during school and thirty minutes after school shall meet the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards, at a minimum. This includes such items as those sold through a la carte lines, vending machines, student run stores, and fundraising activities;
- Snacks provided to students during the school day without charge (e.g., class parties) will meet standards set by the district in accordance law. The district will provide parents a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards for classroom snacks and celebrations; and
- Schools will only allow marketing and advertising of foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in school nutritional standards on campus during the school day.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall implement and ensure compliance with the policy by:

- Reviewing the policy at least every three years and recommending updates as appropriate for board approval;
- Implementing a process for permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, administrators and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the policy;
- Making the policy and updated assessment of the implementation available to the public (e.g., posting on the website, newsletters, etc). This information shall include the extent to which the schools are in compliance with policy and a description of the progress being made in attaining the goals of the policy; and
- Developing administrative regulations, which shall include specific wellness goals and indicators for measurement of progress consistent with law and district policy.

Legal Reference:

42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 *et seq.*

42 U.S.C. §§ 1771 *et seq.*

Iowa Code §§ 256.7(29); 256.11(6).

281 I.A.C. 12.5; 58.11.

Cross Reference:

504.5 Student Fund Raising

504.6 Student Activity Program

710 School Food Services

WELLNESS REGULATION

To implement the Wellness Policy, the following district specific goals have been established:

Goal 1 – Nutrition Education and Promotion: Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that help students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors. The goal for addressing nutrition education and nutrition promotion include the following:

1. Providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.

Goal 2 – Physical Activity: Schools 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(s) for addressing physical activity include the following

1. Promoting the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits.
2. Engage students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50% of physical education class.
3. Encourage teachers to provide short physical activity breaks (3-5 min) as appropriate.
4. Afford elementary students with recess according to the following:
 - a. At least 20 minutes a day
 - b. Outdoors as weather and time permits
 - c. Encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity
 - d. Scheduled to avoid extended periods of inactivity

Goal 3 – Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness: Schools will support student, staff, and parents' efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle, as appropriate. The goal(s) for addressing other school-based activities that promote student wellness include the following:

1. Provide parents a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards for classroom snacks and celebrations.
2. Develop a plan to promote staff health and wellness.
3. Share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students as requested.
4. Permit students to bring and carry water bottles throughout the day.

Public Involvement: There is a process for permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, administrators and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the policy:

The district has a local wellness policy committee to advise the district on the development, implementation, and improvement of the school wellness policy.