

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 199  
Inver Grove Heights Community Schools  
2990 80<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55076

**WELLNESS**

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

**II. General Statement of Policy**

- A. The school board recognizes that nutrition education and physical education are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and education.
- B. The school environment should promote and protect students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
- C. The school district encourages the involvement of students, parents, teachers, food service staff, and other interested persons in implementing, monitoring, and reviewing school district nutrition and physical activity policies.
- D. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.
- E. All students in grades K-12 will be supported and encouraged to be physically active in and out of school hours.
- F. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

**III. Guidelines**

A. Foods and Beverages

- 1. As part of a well balanced diet, the school district recommends that all food and beverages made available on campus will be consistent with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These guidelines

include an increase in the consumption of fruits and vegetables, an increase in fiber and a decrease in fats.

2. Students have access to foods and beverages that meet or exceed all federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.
3. District personnel shall adhere to all federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
4. 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 school meals.
5. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
6. The school district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.
7. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.

B. School Food Service Program/Personnel

1. The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that strictly comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations.
2. The school district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the school district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
3. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.

C. Nutrition Education and Promotion

1. The school district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and staff and engage in nutrition promotion that is:

- a. offered as part of a comprehensive K-12 program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health; and
  - b. part of health education classes as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and
  - c. enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and participatory activities, such as taste testing, field trips and other appropriate activities.
2. The school district will encourage all students and staff to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs, such as through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.
  3. Schools will discourage the use of foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior (unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan or behavior intervention plan) and will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.

D. Physical Activity

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities such as watching television;
2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and
3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.
4. Students will have access to physical education class regardless of behavioral or academic status.
5. Schools will be discouraged from limiting recess as a consequence for negative behaviors.

E. Communications with Parents

1. The school district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary and fundamental role in promoting and protecting their children's health and well-being.
2. The school district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
3. The school district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods with limited nutritional value.
4. The school district will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

**IV. Implementation and Monitoring**

- A. After approval by the school board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school district.
- B. School food service staff, at the school or district level, will ensure compliance within the school's food service areas and will report to the food service program administrator, the building principal, or the superintendent's designee, as appropriate.
- C. The school district's food service program administrator will provide an annual report to the superintendent that will review the school district's food service program which will include nutritional goals.
- D. The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with the wellness policy and will provide an annual report of the school district's compliance with the policy to the school board.

**Legal References:** 42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)  
P.L. 108-265 (2004) § 204 (Local Wellness Policy)  
7 U.S.C. § 5341 (Establishment of Dietary Guidelines)  
7 C.F.R. § 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)  
7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)

**Local Resources:** Minnesota Department of Education, [www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)  
Minnesota Department of Health, [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)  
County Health Departments  
Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org)