

Glascok County Wellness Policy (GCWP)
Compared to AHG Model Policy

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Note: This "Basic" district-level wellness policy template meets the minimum Federal standards for local school wellness policy implementation under the final rule of the [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#), the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Healthy Schools Program Bronze-level award criteria, and minimum best practice standards accepted in the education and public health fields.

Preamble

[Insert School District name] (hereto referred to as the District) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, we need to create positive, safe and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year. **GCWP recognizes the importance of wellness and states its commitment to provide a school environment that promotes and protects student wellness.**

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism and better performance on cognitive tasks. Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students. In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education and extracurricular activities – do better academically. Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better **cognitive performance. GCWP highlights nutrition education & positive dietary practices (good nutrition) and physical activity in relationship to positive student outcomes.**

This policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that: **GCWP lists specific procedures similar in its preamble.**

- Students in the District have access to healthy foods throughout the school day – both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus– in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards; **GCWP states that students will have access to foods & beverages available on campus that meet required nutrition standards and the Healthy, Hungry-free Kids Act of 2010.**
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors; **GCWP lists nutrition education as well under goals and procedures.**
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during and after school.

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- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness; GC Wellness policy lists nutrition promotion under goals for nutrition education.
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the District in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The District establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives. GC Wellness policy states responsibility for the oversight of the policy and that the district wellness committee will participate in development, implementation, and review of the policy.

This policy applies to all students, staff and schools in the District. Specific measureable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

The District will convene a representative district wellness committee (hereto referred to as the DWC or work within an existing school health committee) that meets at least 2 times per year *for specify frequency of meetings, with a minimum of two meetings per year* to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy (heretofore referred to as “wellness policy”). GCWP states that the district will have a wellness committee that will meet no less than 2 times per year and will identify goals and objectives.

The DWC membership will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (e.g., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (e.g., health education teachers, school health services staff [e.g., nurses, , health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services]; school administrators (e.g., principals), school board members; (and the general public. GCWP states that members may include but are not limited to Superintendent, or designee, School Nutrition Program representative, teachers (physical education and others), parents, community members, health care representatives (school or community) or other concerned stakeholders.

Leadership

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure the school’s compliance with the policy. GCWP states that the superintendent or designee will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the GCWP and compliance.

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The designated official for oversight is (School Nutrition Director)

The name(s), and title(s), of these individual(s) are listed on the school nutrition website): GCWP Committee members are listed on system website.

Name	Title / Relationship to the School or District	Role on Committee
Ima Example	Community Member	Assists in the evaluation of the wellness policy implementation

The Glascock County District's Nutrition Director will ensure compliance with the policy. GCWP states each school Principal will be responsible for the wellness program at the school level.

II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

The District GCWPC will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy.

GCWP implementation plan states that the School Nutrition Director shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Wellness Program at the school level, including the oversight of the implementation of goals of the Program and conducting evaluation and measurement of the Program.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: www.glascock.k12.ga.us

Recordkeeping

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The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the DWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

GCWP recordkeeping will all be maintained in the GC Nutrition Services department.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the district website and/or district-wide communications. The District will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

GCWP will be posted on the Nutrition Services page and when/if updated, the updated information will be made available on the website. GCWP states that a report of the evaluation results will be conducted every 3 years at minimum, which will be made available to the public on the System's website. The public will have an opportunity to provide input regarding development, implementation and periodic review of the policy to the Committee by way of contacting the school nutrition director

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which the GCWP compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is _____ The school nutrition director _____.

GCWP states that the Wellness Committee will use the triennial assessment tool to evaluate the progress of the schools wellness policy goals. This tool will be available on the school nutrition website.

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The District will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report by posting this report on the school nutrition website.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The DWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual triennial assessments and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

GCWP will be displayed through the Nutrition Services department webpage.

The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

III. Nutrition

School Meals

Our school district is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans*-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

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All k-12 grades within the District participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The District also operates additional nutrition-related programs and activities including *[if applicable, insert here a list of other programs such as Farm to School programs, school gardens, Mobile Breakfast carts]*. The Glascock County School System is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following marketing and merchandising techniques:
 - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
 - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
 - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
 - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
 - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
 - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
 - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
 - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad, smoothies, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
 - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area
 - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
 - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
 - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.

[Optional additional policy language includes:

- *Menus will be posted on the District website*
- *Menus will be created/reviewed by the school nutrition director.*
- *School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.*
- *The District child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.*
- *Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated*
- *Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.*
- *Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.*
- *The District will implement at least four of the following five Farm to School activities*
 - *Local and/or regional products are incorporated into the school meal program;*
 - *Messages about agriculture and nutrition are reinforced throughout the learning environment;*
 - *School hosts a school garden;*
 - *School hosts field trips to local farms; and*

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- *School utilizes promotions or special events, such as tastings, that highlight the local/regional products.]*

GCWP states that, to the extent practical, all schools will participate in available federal school meal programs. Furthermore, all food and beverages made available on campus during the school day will be consistent with the requirements of federal and state law.

GCWP also states that Nutrition Standards and Guidelines components will be established (which is through the Wellness Evaluation) and will assist with implementation of these components when needed. Components include:

- School staff should not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, particularly those foods with minimal nutritional value.
- Prohibit the withholding of food or beverages, including food served through school meals as punishment.
- Schools should encourage fundraisers that promote positive health habits such as the sale of non-food and nutritious food items as well as fundraising to support physical activities.
- Food offered to students outside of the School Nutrition Program should meet state and federal nutritional guidelines.
- Organizations should only use non-food items or foods designed for delivery and consumption as fundraisers after school hours.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

The school nutrition program director, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day* and throughout every school campus* ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

[Optional additional policy language may include:

- *Water cups/jugs will be available in the cafeteria if a drinking fountain is not present.*
- *All water sources and containers will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene and health safety standards.*
- *Students are allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.*

Competitive Foods and Beverages

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The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus* during the school day* support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org.

[NOTE: In some cases, states have passed more stringent nutrition standards for competitive foods and beverages in addition to the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. In these states, districts and schools must also comply with their state standards.]

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day* [and ideally, the extended school day*] will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards [or, if the state policy is stronger, “will meet or exceed state nutrition standards”]. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, à la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and snack or food carts.

GCWP states that food offered to students outside of the School Nutrition Program should meet state and federal nutritional guidelines.

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards [or, if the state policy is stronger, “will meet or exceed state nutrition standards”], including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas upon request to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide to parents upon request a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.
3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

GCWP states that school staff should not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, particularly those foods with minimal nutritional value.

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Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus* during the school day*. The District will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas [examples from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and the [USDA](#)].

GCWP states that schools should encourage fundraisers that promote positive health habits such as the sale of non-food and nutritious food items as well as fundraising to support physical activities. It also states that organizations should only use non-food items or foods designed for delivery and consumption as fundraisers after school hours. The Glascock County school District allows 30 exempted fundraisers per year.

[Given the pervasiveness of food fundraisers in many schools and the wide availability of profitable, healthy fundraising options, additional policy language is encouraged:

- *Schools will use only non-food fundraisers, and encourage those promoting physical activity (such as walk-a-thons, Jump Rope for Heart, fun runs, etc.).*
- *Fundraising during and outside school hours will be encouraged to sell only non-food items or foods and beverages that meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These fundraisers may include but are not limited to, donation nights at restaurants, cookie dough, candy and pizza sales, market days, etc.* **Nutrition Promotion**

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students and the community.

The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using marketing and merchandising techniques; and
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that the District and individual schools may use are available at <http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/>.

GCWP states that students in grades Pre-K thru 12 will receive, to the extent possible, consistent messages regarding nutrition throughout the school environment, including the classroom, cafeteria, home, community and media. It also states that schools will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve parents, students, teachers and the community.

Nutrition Education

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The District will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that: GCWP states that it is the intent of the Policy that the System shall teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students and that nutrition education will be provided by school officials that are consistent with federal and state requirements and engage in nutrition promotion.

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

[Optional additional policy language includes:

- *In elementary schools, nutrition education will be offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based health education curriculum that meets state and national standards*
- *All health education teachers will provide opportunities for students to practice or rehearse the skills taught through the health education curricula*

GCWP states the following goals for nutrition promotion and education:

- Students in grades Pre-K thru 12 will receive sequential and interactive nutrition education focusing on skills needed to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle. This nutrition education, to include food safety, will be integrated into the health education curriculum or core curriculum (e.g., math science, language arts).
- Students in grades Pre-K thru 12 will receive, to the extent possible, consistent messages regarding nutrition throughout the school environment, including the classroom, cafeteria, home, community and media.
- Schools will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve parents, students, teachers and the community.
- School Nutrition staff will coordinate with school staff, when appropriate, to allow the school cafeteria to serve as a learning lab.
- Schools will support the integration of a Farm to School program as appropriate to facilitate the nutritional and educational goals of the school district.

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Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- [The Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- Reducing sodium intake
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

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.

GCWP states that it is the intent of the policy that schools will support and provide school-based marketing consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus* during the school day* will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards ***for, if stronger, "state nutrition standards", such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.***

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Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes an oral, written, or graphic statements made for promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product.

IV. Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 20 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the district is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). All schools in the district will be encouraged to participate in *Let's Move! Active Schools* (www.letsmoveschools.org) in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

GCWP states that students will participate in periodic fitness assessments

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason **[insert if appropriate: "This does not include participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements"]**. The district will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline students.

GCWP states that physical activity or recess is not to be used as a reward or punishment.

To the extent practicable, the District will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The District will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

GCWP states that it is the intent of the Policy for all students in grades K-12 to have opportunities, support and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis

Physical Education

The District will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will

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help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the “*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*” subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

GCWP states that the System will provide physical education consistent with federal and state requirements and engage in promotion of physical activities aimed at attainment of certain physical education goals appropriate for each grade level.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The District will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All District **elementary students** in each grade will receive physical education for at least 60-89 minutes per week throughout the school year. [NOTE: Additional optional policy language substitutions include: All elementary students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 90-149 minutes per week throughout the school year . OR All elementary students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 150 minutes per week throughout the school year.

All [District] **secondary students** (middle and high school) are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.

The District physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

[Additional policy language includes:

- Students will be moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of class time during most or all physical education class sessions
- All physical education teachers in [District] will be required to participate in at least a once a year professional development in education
- All physical education classes in [District] are taught by licensed teachers who are certified or endorsed to teach physical education

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in high school grade (9th) for students to take and pass at least one health education course. The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition

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- Differences between physical activity, exercise and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity.

GCWP states that school environments should provide safe and enjoyable physical activities for all students. Outside of the school environment, GCWP states that patterns of physical activity are encouraged in students' lives outside of physical education and take into consideration the need for energy balance. Schools will work with families and communities to assist them in incorporating safe physical activity into their daily lives and community infrastructure, respectively.

Recess (Elementary)

All elementary schools will offer at least **20 minutes of recess** on all days during the school year (Insert as appropriate any language such as: *This policy may be waived on early dismissal or late arrival days*). If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play.

In the event that the school or district must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)

The District recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The District recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week.

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These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

The District will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through [USDA](#) and the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#).

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The District will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Before and After School Activities

The District offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods. The District will encourage students to be physically active before and after school by: *District should choose appropriate and reasonable options such as physical activity clubs, physical activity in aftercare, intramurals or interscholastic sports, and insert approaches here.*

Active Transport

The District will support active transport to and from school, such as walking. The District will encourage this behavior by engaging in six of the activities below; including but not limited to: *District will select from the list below and insert them here as policy.*

- Designate safe or preferred routes to school
- Promote activities such as participation in International Walk to School Week
- Instruction on walking safety provided to students
- Promote safe routes program to students, staff, and parents via newsletters, websites, local newspaper
- Use crossing guards
- Use crosswalks on streets leading to schools

V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHIER GENERATION MODEL WELLNESS POLICY

Updated 9/2016 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule

The District will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. The District will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement

The District will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the “Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications” subsection, the District will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the district’s website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

GCWP states that it is the intent of the policy that schools will support parental efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children, and that schools will also value the health and well-being of the school community by planning and implementing activities and procedures that support personal efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The District will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

- *The District will use a healthy meeting policy for all events with available food options, created by the SWC/DWC or one that currently exists that optimizes healthy food options with a variety of choices and selections of healthy foods for a variety of dietary needs.]*

Professional Learning

When feasible, the District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHIER GENERATION MODEL WELLNESS POLICY

Updated 9/2016 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule

Glossary:

Extended School Day – the time during, before and after school that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

School Campus - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

School Day – the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

Triennial – recurring every three years.

School Level Contacts:

School Nutrition Director- Betty Morrison 706-598-2121 ext.104

School Principals-

Elementary- Ann Cantrell- 706-598-2121 ext.115

Middle and High- Michael Costello- 706-598-2121 ext.105

