



Local Wellness Policy
2025-2026

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Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

Wellness Policy Committee

Wellness Policy Leadership

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Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities

Public Involvement

The District permits and encourages public involvement in Local Wellness Policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, the LEA shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in Local Wellness Policy processes. The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes:

- District Website: worthschools.org
- School Messenger
- Social Media
- Monthly Parent Newsletters

Assessments

Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Worth School District 127 shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every three (3) years, beginning in FY 2022 and occurring every three (3) years thereafter. These assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy follows USDA, State, and Local rules and regulations
- Compare the LEA's wellness policy to model wellness policies
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in the LEA's wellness policy

Updates

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate in order to fit the needs and goals of the District. The District shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy

Through the following channels:

- District Website: worthschools.org
- School Messenger
- Social Media
- Monthly Parent Newsletters

Records

The District shall maintain record of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process

Nutrition

The District recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the effects of nutrition on the classroom, for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' success, attendance, and behavior.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 19.3 percent of the nation's youth was considered obese in 2017-18. Obesity prevalence was 13.4% among 2-to 5-year-olds, 20.3% among 6- to 11-year-olds, and 21.2% among 12- to 19-year-olds. Childhood obesity is also more common among certain populations. Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students in order to prevent both overconsumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity to give students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Nutrition Standards

Meals

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (i.e. Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans-fat.

Students will participate in a food tasting committee on an annual basis. The purpose of this committee is to recommend food preferences for breakfast and lunch. These recommendations will be considered if dietary requirements are followed.

Competitive Foods

All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). This includes, but is not limited to, vending machines and à la carte items.

Worth School District 127 does not offer any competitive foods and beverages prior to 30 minutes after the end of the school day. These competitive foods and beverages are only sold if the District is hosting an event and the Student Council is selling items at a concession stand.

Other Foods and Beverages

The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. Nutritious foods are encouraged when used as part of a social or cultural event in the schools. During the school day, schools should limit the use of food at celebrations that are not related to the curriculum. The use of candy or “sweet treats” as a reward for academic performance or good behavior is prohibited. Other foods as an incentive, or reward, or as part of the curriculum for students should be used judiciously, taking into consideration the nutritional value of food being served and the frequency of use.

Providing alternatives to food as a reward promotes healthier habits by reducing exposure to less nutritious food items and, therefore, the amount of calorie-dense food items consumed (e.g. cakes, cookies, candy, etc.). This helps children develop improved food preferences and hunger cues to carry them throughout life. Instead, schools will implement the following methods for rewards and celebrations:

- Pencils
- Bookmarks
- Pop Its
- “Pawfficer Louie” (a visit from the Therapy Dog)

Fundraisers

All fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

The school primarily utilizes non-food fundraisers to promote healthy habits and well-being. Such non-food fundraising currently used include:

- “Kids Heart Challenge”
- Quarters for Veterans
- Wax Museum
- Food Drive for local food pantry
- Giving Tree for needy families
- Children’s Oncology Treasure Chest

Nutrition Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the District shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Health Education. The District shall include nutrition education within the health education curriculum and integrate nutrition education into other core subjects, as appropriate. Various grade levels and curriculums shall use nutrition education information, research, and materials from the following resources:

- Kid's Heart Challenge
- What a Healthy Meal looks like
- Daily Physical Education
- Fitness Club
- Nutrition Education in Health Class/PE Class

The District shall incorporate nutrition education into the following curriculums for the following grade levels:

- 2nd Grade school-wide Wit & Wisdom curriculum - nourishing
- Nutrition Unit in P.E./Health Classes

Nutrition Promotion

The District shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels, including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

The District shall make cafeteria menus and nutrition information available through the following platforms:

- District Website: worthschools.org
- School Messenger
- Social Media
- Monthly Parent Newsletters
- Paper Menus in each Lunchroom
- myschoolquest.com/worthelementaryd/menus

Food loss and waste continue to be an issue facing the nation's food supply. In order to prevent food waste, the District will make every effort to produce the precise number of meals needed on any given day by using production records and resources such as the USDA's Food Buying Guide. However, in the event excess food remains, the District will continue to provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided through the USDA School Nutrition Programs. Therefore, the District shall follow the established food sharing plan, in accordance with Public Act 102-0359, and federal and local regulations and sanitation codes:

- Food Sharing Table set up in each lunchroom location
 - Students must place unwanted/unopened non-perishable food items on food sharing table for fellow students to take

- Empty milk crates are in each classroom for unwanted/unopened non-perishable breakfast food items
 - Students who did not order breakfast may take items from the crate
 - After breakfast is over, all leftover crates go to the main office. Students may go to the main office for food items during the day
- At the end of the week, unclaimed food items are taken to a local shelter/food pantry in the community

Marketing

The District will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement, however, the District shall implement these standards as equipment needs replaced in the future.

Physical Activity

Physical activity is a key component of the health and well-being of all students. Physical activity lowers the risk for certain diseases, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Physical activity also helps improve brain function, allowing students to perform better in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adolescents get at least 60 minutes of physical activity five days per week. Nearly 79 percent of school-age children fall short of meeting this requirement. The District recognizes this connection and commits to promoting and providing opportunities for physical activity during and outside the school day.

Physical Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the District shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Physical Education. The LEA shall offer Physical Education class as follows:

- 5 Days per week for Elementary students K – 5 = 150 minutes per week
- 5 Days per week for Junior High students, Grades 6-8 = 240 minutes per week

Other Opportunities for Physical Activity

The District shall include additional physical activity opportunities, outside of Physical Education class, during the school day through the following:

- Fitness Club
- Unstructured Play Time
- Walks outside/around the school building
- Daily Recess

The following opportunities for participation in school-based sports shall be offered to students each year:

- Volleyball, Grades 6-8
- Basketball, Grades 6-8
- Cheerleading, Grades 6-8
- Track & Field, Grades 6-8
- Soccer, Grades 6-8

Physical Activity Promotion

The District shall promote physical activity through the participation in the following initiative(s):

- Kids Heart Challenge
- Fitness Club
- Walk to School Day
- Field Day
- Dance Parties
- Walks with “Pawfficer Louie”

Other School-Based Activities

Just as it takes a comprehensive curriculum to provide education to support students' futures, the District's wellness approach must also be comprehensive in its intent to provide students with the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. In order to further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, the LEA commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The District shall offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events shall be organized and promoted each year:

- Fitness Club
- Fishing Club
- Mobile Dental Program
- Food Tasting Committee for Menu development

The following health, wellness, and/or nutrition clubs shall be offered to students each year:

- Fitness Club
- Fishing Club
- Soccer Club