

The Board recognizes the importance of proper nutrition and developmentally appropriate physical activity as ways of promoting healthy lifestyles, minimizing childhood obesity and preventing other diet-related chronic diseases. The Board also recognizes that health and student success are interrelated. It is, therefore, the goal of the Board that the learning environment positively influences a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and physical activity.

Goals:

1. The District shall teach, encourage, support and model healthy eating habits for students.
2. The District shall teach, encourage, support and model age appropriate daily physical activity.
3. The District shall educate students, employees, school board and community members to the important benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
4. In a manner designed to facilitate the adoption of healthier eating habits, the Districts shall comply with the nutrition guidelines outlined in this policy.

Nutrition Guidelines:

The School District's nutritional standards are based upon standards established by the USDA and New Hampshire Healthy School Coalition/Best Practice. These nutrition guidelines, apply to all foods available to students on school grounds during the school day, including but not limited to, the school lunch and breakfast program, foods and beverages sold in vending machines/school stores and as part of classroom lessons/activities, parties, celebrations or fundraising efforts. As needed the SAU Wellness Committee will request that the Superintendent notify each School Board regarding any changes that have occurred in federal and state nutrition guidelines that need to be reflected in this policy.

- A. School Meals: School meals served in the District shall meet or exceed the nutrition requirements established by the USDA, laws and regulations. Administration of the school meal program will be by qualified school food service staff. School lunches and breakfast programs will offer variety of foods and choices for students. Nutritional information about school meals should be available for students and parents/guardians through menus, websites and other appropriate school media.
- B. Free and Reduced Meals: Eligibility for and distribution of free and reduced priced meals will be provided with confidentiality in accordance with state and federal requirements.
- C. Breakfast & Lunch: In order to meet the nutritional needs of children and enhance their ability to learn it is recommended that all schools in the District provide a breakfast program in addition to their already established lunch programs.

D. Meal Times and Scheduling: Schools whenever possible should:

- Ensure students have sufficient time to eat breakfast and lunch in accordance with the federal nutritional guidelines.
- Schedule meal periods at appropriate times in accordance with NH Healthy Schools Coalition /Best Practice recommendations. Lunch should normally be scheduled between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.
- Not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings/activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.

E. Food Sales: All food items available through schools and school functions should meet or exceed nutritional standards established by the NH Healthy Schools Coalition/ Best Practice.

Elementary Schools: The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools. Foods in elementary schools should be sold as balanced meals.

F. Fundraising Activities: To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school sponsored fundraising activities (direct school affiliation) should not involve food or should use only foods that meet the above nutrition and portion size standards for foods and beverages sold individually. Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The District should make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

G. Schools will not withhold food or beverages as a punishment. Schools also shall not decrease meal or snack time as a consequence.

H. Snacks: Snacks served during the school day or in school-sponsored after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health. The District will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel and parents/guardians.

I. School Store: Food and beverage items sold in the school store will meet guidelines of this policy. Food items in the school store will not be sold when the school food services program is open. (Food items available after lunch and after school.)

J. Celebrations: Schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). The District should disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents/guardians and teachers. Celebrations will take place in homeroom or advisory. Subject area lessons involving food preparation should follow nutritional guidelines as part of the instruction of the lesson.

School staff involved in homeroom, field trips and advisory food related events

will communicate with school food services managers to assist with cafeteria planning and reducing food waste. Where possible, staff will order foods through food services managers.

K. Extra-Curricular Meals: When arrangements can be made through the food service program, food and beverage items that meet the guidelines of this policy will be made available to students. Examples of activities include but are not limited to: Athletic teams and clubs.

L. Classroom Activities: Schools shall discourage the use of food items for instructional purposes unless is essential to a curriculum area. This is especially the case for those food items that do not meet the nutritional standards for foods as outlined in this policy.

#### Nutrition Guidelines for Reimbursable School Meals:

In no circumstances will the guidelines for reimbursable school meals be less restrictive than the regulations and guidance issued by the US Secretary of Agriculture as applicable to schools. Foods should be served with consideration toward variety, appeal, taste, safety, and packaging to ensure that students will participate in consuming high quality meals.

#### **Physical Activity**

The purpose of the SAU 16 physical activity policy is to promote daily participation in physical activity for all students. The goal is to promote and maintain physical fitness and to provide students with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to understand the short and long term benefits of physical activity. Physical activities offered may include, but are not limited to, recess periods, physical education classes, walking programs, the integration of physical activities into the academic curriculum and after-school programs, including intramurals and interscholastic athletics and physical activity clubs. Physical activity including recess should not be denied or used for disciplinary reasons or to make up lessons or class work.

SAU 16 recognizes that sixty (60) minutes of moderate to vigorous daily exercise is a reasonable goal for students. This goal may be accomplished through a combination of the following:

- A. A sequential physical education program;
- B. Time in the elementary school day for supervised recess with physical activities encouraged;
- C. Opportunities and encouragement for students to initiate and voluntarily participate in before-and-after-school physical activity or programs, such as intramurals, clubs, etc.; and
- D. School support for community recreation and youth sports programs and agencies that complement physical activity programs.

Plan for Measuring Implementation:

The School Board instructs the Superintendent to establish procedures for implementation of this policy that include targets in support of the goals set forth in this Policy. Each Building Principal is charged with the operational responsibility for ensuring that their school follows the guidelines set forth in this policy and implements strategies for achieving the targets set forth in the procedures established by the Superintendent. The Wellness Committee will periodically assess the nutrition and physical activity environment throughout the District and provide input to each Building Principal and the Superintendent regarding progress on the current targets, recommend any new targets and identify strategies in support of the goals stated in this Policy. The Superintendent and Building Principals will decide upon the targets and strategies in support of the goals stated in this Policy. Periodic progress reports will be provided to the School Board.

Community Involvement:

The SAU Joint Board will maintain a Wellness Committee that will periodically assess the nutrition and physical activity environment throughout the District. This group will assess progress on the current goal targets; recommend any new goal targets and identify strategies for achieving them. The Committee will consist of a group representing parents/guardians, students, the school's food service program, the School Board, administrators, regular and wellness related faculty and staff as well as members of the public with wellness related expertise. The purpose of this advisory Committee is to provide content area expertise and community input.

Reference: AFHK – N.H. Healthy Schools Coalition [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org)

Legal References:

*RSA 189:11-a, Food and Nutrition Programs*  
*Section 204 of Public Law 108-265 Ed 306.04(a)(20), Wellness*  
*Ed 306.401, Health and Wellness Education Program*

Appendix Reference:

Date Adopted: June 14, 2006

Last Review/Revision Date: June 10, 2015