

Food Services

© 3-301.E Procedure - Food Services - Wellness Program

The purpose of this Procedure is to outline the parameters of the District's wellness policy as required by [7 C.F.R. § 245.10](#).

The Dysart Unified School District promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and physical activity as part of the total learning environment. The District is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and development of lifelong wellness practices.

A. Goals

1. Nutrition Promotion - Influence students' eating behaviors by providing nutrition education that is appropriate for students' ages; reflects students' cultures; is integrated into health education or core curricula; and provides opportunities for students to practice skills and have fun. The health benefits of good nutrition should be emphasized. The Nutrition Services Department shall promote nutrition through hands-on activities, no less than once per year at each school
2. Nutrition Education - Influence students' eating behaviors by providing nutrition education that is appropriate for students' ages; reflects students' cultures; is integrated into health education or core curricula; and provides opportunities for students to practice skills and have fun
3. Physical Activity - Provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills for specific physical activities, to maintain students' physical fitness, to ensure students' regular participation in physical activity and to teach students the short- and long-term benefits of a physically active and healthful lifestyle.
4. Other School-based Activities - Create a total school environment that is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity
5. Promote Student Health and Reduce Childhood Obesity - Offer a wide variety of fresh fruits and veggies on salad bars and/or serving lines. Offer smart snacks to promote healthier alternatives to traditional packaged snacks.

B. All foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day must originate from a Maricopa County-approved business. This includes supermarkets, bakeries and restaurants. Products prepared at home or in a non-commercial kitchen are prohibited.

C. Food and Beverage Standards

1. All food and beverages sold on school grounds during the school day shall meet the nutrition standards developed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) meal programs, including the following:
 1. A la carte items in the food service program; and

2. Food and beverages sold in vending machines, snack bars and meal-period kiosks and at school stores.
3. Foods of minimal nutritional value as defined in federal regulation shall not be served or sold during the normal school day on any campus.

D. Food Marketing

All food providers will be sensitive to the school environment and only market and advertise foods and beverages that meet Smart Snack standards.

1. Parents, students, physical education teachers, school health professionals, school administrators and the general public will have an opportunity to be involved in the creation of the written plan via Wellness Committee meetings.
2. Implementation and Monitoring

With the purposes of monitoring the implementation of this program, evaluating progress, and revising the program as necessary, a wellness committee has been established. The committee will meet a minimum of two (2) times annually. A model wellness program will be used to meet the federal standards for local school wellness program implementation. An assessment of the wellness program will be completed every three years. It is recommended the membership at a minimum includes the following:

Director of Food Service

District Chef

Parent representative from each school level

Student representative from each school level

Administrative Representative

Physical Education staff member

Health staff member

3. The District will report on content and implementation of the wellness program and plan to the public by posting all information on the district website for public access.

The Director of Food Services is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the wellness program and the written plan.

At least once every three (3) years, the District shall assess compliance, which shall include local school compliance, a comparison to other wellness programs and written plans, a review of progress toward goals, and proposed updates or modifications.

E. Notification

The District shall:

1. Permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the Board, school administrators,

and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the local school wellness policy and written plan;

2. Inform the public about the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy and written plan, and make the policy, written plan and any updates to the written plan available to the public on an annual basis; and
3. Inform the public about progress toward meeting the goals of the local school wellness policy and compliance with the wellness policy and written plan by making the triennial assessment available to the public.

F. Record Keeping

The District shall retain records to document compliance with the applicable federal regulations related to a wellness policy and written plan, including maintaining the policy and plan, the compliance with community involvement requirements, and the triennial evaluation.

Participating Trust member districts should review each policy with their school board legal counsel before adoption.

Food Services

© 3-301.A Procedure - Food Services - Nutrition

All food and beverages sold or served on the school grounds or at school-sponsored events during the school day shall meet the nutrition standards developed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and federal government meal programs, including the following:

1. A la carte items in the food service program; and
2. Food and beverages sold in vending machines, snack bars and meal-period kiosks and at school stores.

Vending machines that are not operated by the Food Service department must be set on timers and be turned off during student meal periods. Vending machine marketing and signage must only advertise smart-snack-approved items.

Foods of minimal nutritional value as defined in federal regulation shall not be served or sold during the normal school day on any campus.

The District shall permit students, parents/guardians and community members to review food and beverage nutrition information.

The District shall provide modified meals for a student with life-threatening food allergies or special food needs as an accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The District Food Service Department may offer competitive foods if in compliance with federal and state statute. Competitive foods means any food sold in competition with the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program to students during the meal periods. Fundraising shall not compete with the Food Service Department during meal periods. Entrees such as burritos or pizza are not permitted to be sold by groups or organizations outside of the Food Service Department during the school day. Competitive foods include a la carte, beverages, and snack food, including vending machines. All such foods must meet the nutrition standards published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Policy © 3-301 Food Services

The Governing Board may operate school meal programs and may employ personnel, purchase equipment and food and incur other necessary expenses for its operation. The Board shall establish prices to be paid for meals by students, staff and visitors.

The primary goal of the programs shall be the promotion of student health and the reduction of childhood obesity. All guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Nutrition Standards

The District shall maintain minimum nutrition standards that meet the federal and state guidelines and regulations for foods and beverages sold or served on school grounds. These nutrition standards may include portion sizes, minimum nutrient values and a listing of contents.

The District shall permit the marketing of food and beverage only for those foods and beverages that meet the smart snacks in school nutrition standards.

Competitive Food/Outside Vendors

The Superintendent may authorize outside vendors to offer competitive foods in compliance with federal and state statute. No individual may provide or sell food or beverages without written authorization. Competitive foods shall not be sold to students during the breakfast and lunch periods.

Participation in Federal Nutrition Programs

The District shall participate in the national school lunch program unless the District has less than one hundred students and has opted out. The District may participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and/or the Special Milk Program (SMP) with the free milk option, and the Food Commodity Program (FCP).

The District shall determine the eligibility of children to obtain free and reduced price meals and will follow state and federal guidelines regarding the free and reduced meal program.

In accordance with [7 C.F.R. § 245.10](#), the District shall file an approved free and reduced-price policy statement with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) that accurately describes its current free and reduced-price policies.

Wellness Program

Staff who provide food services shall coordinate the provision of meals in alignment with the District's wellness policies and programs adopted for students. This will include support for the provision of nutrition education, promotion and physical activity as well as the involvement with the community.

School Functions

The Board authorizes the reasonable provision of food and beverages at District expense at school district events, including official board meetings, school functions and trainings.

Adopted: January 1, 2023

Legal Authority:

[A.R.S. § 15-242](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-341](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-342](#)

[A.R.S. §§ 15-1151 to 15-1158](#)

[42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq.](#)

[42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq.](#)

[7 C.F.R. Part 210](#)

[7 C.F.R. Part 220](#)

[7 C.F.R. Part 215](#)

[7 C.F.R. Part 245](#)

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