

246. STUDENT WELLNESS

1. Purpose

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

2. Authority
P.L. 108-265
Sec. 204

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Board establishes that the district shall provide to students:

A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.

Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutritional guidelines.

Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day.

3. Delegation of
Responsibility
Pol. 808

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to monitor district schools, programs, and curriculum to ensure compliance with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.

Each building principal or designee shall report to the Superintendent or designee regarding compliance in his/her school.

Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness shall report to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of such programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall **annually** report to the Board on the district's compliance with law and policies related to student wellness. The report may include:

<p>P.L. 108-265 Sec. 204</p> <p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Assessment of school environment regarding student wellness issues.</p> <p>Evaluation of food services program.</p> <p>Review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines.</p> <p>Recommendations for policy and/or program revisions.</p> <p>Suggestions for improvement in specific areas.</p> <p>An assurance that district guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law shall be provided <u>annually</u> by the:</p> <p>Food Service Director.</p> <p><u>Wellness Committee</u></p> <p>The Board shall appoint a Wellness Committee comprised of at least one (1) of the following: School Board member, district administrator, district food service representative, student, parent/guardian, member of the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teacher school nurse school counselor coach dietician representative of local or county agency representative of community organization other individuals chosen by the Board.
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The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing a Student Wellness Policy that complies with law to recommend to the Board for adoption.

The Wellness Committee may examine related research and laws, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing Board policies and administrative regulations, and raise awareness about student health issues. The Wellness Committee may make policy recommendations to the Board related to other health issues necessary to promote student wellness.

The Wellness Committee shall provide periodic reports to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of its work, as required.

Nutrition Education

The goal of nutrition education is to teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students. Promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement.

Nutrition education will be provided within the sequential, comprehensive health education program in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Nutrition education lessons and activities shall be age-appropriate.

Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subjects to complement but not replace academic standards based on nutrition education.

Physical Activity

District schools shall strive to provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day for all students.

Students shall participate daily in a variety of age-appropriate physical activities designed to achieve optimal health, wellness, fitness, and performance benefits.

A physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students shall be maintained.

Physical activity shall not be used as a form of punishment.

Physical Education

Quality physical education instruction that promotes lifelong physical activity and provides instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation shall be provided.

Physical education classes shall be the means through which all students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

A sequential physical education program consistent with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented.

Physical education shall be taught by certified health and physical education teachers.

Appropriate professional development shall be provided for physical education staff.

Other School Based Activities

District schools shall provide adequate space for eating and serving school meals.

Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.

Students shall be provided adequate time to eat: ten (10) minutes sit down time for breakfast; twenty (20) minutes sit down time for lunch.

Meal periods shall be scheduled at appropriate hours.

Drinking water shall be available at all meal periods and throughout the school day.

Students shall have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals and snacks.

Qualified nutrition professionals shall administer the school meals program.

Professional development shall be provided for district nutrition staff.

Access to the food service operation shall be limited to authorized staff.

Nutrition content of school meals shall be available to students and parents/guardians.

Food shall not be used in the schools as a reward or punishment.

The district shall provide appropriate training to all staff on the components of the Student Wellness Policy.

Goals of the Student Wellness Policy shall be considered in planning all school based activities.

Fundraising projects submitted for approval shall be supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.

Administrators, teachers, food service personnel, students, parents/guardians, and community members shall be encouraged to serve as positive role models through district programs, communications and outreach efforts.

The district shall support the efforts of parents/guardians to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for children by communicating relevant information through various methods.

Nutrition Guidelines

All foods available in district schools during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

Foods provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with federal nutrition standards under the School Meals Initiative.

Competitive foods are defined as foods offered at school other than through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs and include a la carte foods, snacks and beverages; vending food, snacks and beverages; school store food, snacks and beverages; fundraisers; classroom parties; holiday celebrations; and food from home.

All competitive foods available to students in district schools shall comply with the USDA's *Smart Snacks in School* guidelines.

Safe Routes To School

The district shall cooperate with local municipalities, public safety agency, police departments, and community organizations to develop and maintain safe routes to school.

August, 2014

References:

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 – P.L. 108-265 Sec. 204