

Armona School District

Wellness Policy 2016/2017

Children need access to healthful foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.

The Armona Union Elementary Board of Trustees recognizes the link between student health and learning and desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for district students. The Superintendent or School Authority (SA) shall build a coordinated school health system that supports and reinforces health literacy through health education, physical education and activity, nutrition services, psychological and health promotion for staff, a safe and healthy school environment, and parent/guardian and community involvement.

To encourage consistent health messages between the home and school environment, the SA may disseminate health information and/or the district's student wellness policy to parents/guardians through district or school newsletters, handouts, parent/guardian meetings, district and school web sites, and other communications. Outreach to parents/guardians shall emphasize the relationship between student health and academic performance.

This wellness policy recognizes the link between student health and learning and desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for district students. Local wellness policies are an important tool for parents, LEAs and school districts to promote student wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and provide assurance that school meal nutrition guidelines meet the minimum Federal school meal standards.

The Armona Union Elementary School District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the Armona Union Elementary School District that:

- The school district will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing district-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.
- All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages sold or served ½ hour before and until ½ hour after school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the *U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and all State and Federal guidelines.
- Qualified child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of

students; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

- To the maximum extent practicable, all seat based schools in our district will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program (including after-school snacks)).
- Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. Armona Union Elementary School District Wellness Committee

The AUESD will create a district wellness committee to strengthen, develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The Wellness Committee will serve as resources to school sites for implementing these policies. A district Wellness Committee will consist of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and should include parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.

II. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (to be defined by USDA).

Schools should engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys, in selecting foods sold through the school meal programs in order to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices. In addition, schools should share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. Such information could be made available on menus, a website, on cafeteria menu boards, placards, or other point-of-purchase materials.

Breakfast. To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn:

- Schools will, to the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program.
- Schools will, to the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast in the classroom, "grab-and-go" breakfast, or breakfast during morning break or recess.

- Schools that serve breakfast to students will notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.
- Schools will encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials, PTA or other means.

Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Both Armona Elementary School and Parkview Middle School participate in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Hence, all students at these two schools eat breakfast and lunch at no cost (free).

*******Meal Times and Scheduling.** Schools:

- will provide students with access to lunch, and breakfast when applicable.
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, *e.g.*, lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.;
- should not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
- should consider scheduling lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools);
- will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff. Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, we will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, school nutrition managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages. Schools will discourage students to share their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Foods and Beverages Sold Individually during school hours (*i.e.*, foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

Elementary Schools. The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools, and will at the least, meet the minimum requirements of SB12. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food in elementary schools will be sold as balanced meals. Foods and beverages sold individually will be limited to low-fat and non-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables.

Middle/Junior High and High Schools. In middle/junior high and high schools, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities) during the school day, will meet the SB12 requirements and the following nutrition and portion size standards:

Beverages

- Allowed: Beverages that meet SB965 and SB12 requirements.
- Not allowed: soft drinks containing caloric sweeteners; iced teas; fruit-based drinks that contain less than 50% real fruit juice or that contain additional caloric sweeteners; beverages containing caffeine, excluding low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk (which contain trivial amounts of caffeine).

Foods

- A food item sold individually:
 - § will have no more than 35% of its calories from fat (excluding nuts, seeds, peanut butter, and other nut butters) and 10% of its calories from saturated and trans fat combined;
 - § will have no more than 35% of its *weight* from added sugars;
- A choice of at least two fruits and/or non-fried vegetables will be offered for sale at any location on the school site where foods are sold. Such items could include, but are not limited to, fresh fruits and vegetables; 100% fruit or vegetable juice; fruit-based drinks that are at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; cooked, dried, or canned fruits (canned in fruit juice or light syrup); and cooked, dried, or canned vegetables.

Portion Sizes

- Limit portion sizes of approved foods and beverages sold individually to those listed below:
 - § One and one-quarter ounces for chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, or jerky;
 - § One ounce for cookies;
 - § Four ounces for cereal bars, granola bars, pastries, muffins, doughnuts, bagels, and other bakery items;
 - § Four fluid ounces for frozen desserts, including, but not limited to, low-fat or fat-free ice cream;
 - § Eight ounces for non-frozen yogurt;
 - § Twelve fluid ounces for beverages, excluding water; sports drinks and juices.
 - § The portion size of a la carte entrees and side dishes, including potatoes, will not be greater than the size of comparable portions offered as part of school meals. Fruits and non-fried vegetables are exempt from portion-size limits.

Snacks. Snacks served during the school day or in after-school programs should make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as

the primary snack. The district will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

- If eligible, schools that provide snacks through after-school programs will pursue receiving reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program.

Rewards. Schools are discouraged from rewarding students with foods or beverages that are not on the approved SB 12 food list. Whenever possible, non-food items should be considered for rewards. Food or beverages will not be withheld as punishment.

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 will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers. It is the policy of Armona School District that any item brought to share must be store bought and have zero trans fat.

School-sponsored Events (such as, but not limited to, athletic events, dances, or performances). Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day do not have to meet the nutritional requirements.

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion. Armona Union Elementary School District aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program 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 classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, history social sciences, and elective subjects;
- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise);
- links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing; and
- includes training for teachers and other staff.

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting. For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity (*i.e.*, at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons; and
- classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.
- Schools should strive to not make discipline actions take away from physical activity.

Communications with Parents. The AUESD will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The district/school will offer healthy eating seminars for AUESD parents a list of foods that meet the district's snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities. In addition, the district/school will provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community. The AUESD strongly encourages parents to adhere (follow) our nutritional guidelines and the protocols outlined in the District's Wellness Policy. The AUESD requests that parents provide students with healthy snacks and/or drinks during the school day. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in order to promote a healthy eating life style.

The AUESD will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K-12. All students in grades K-12, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive daily physical education (or its equivalent of 150 minutes/week for elementary school students and 225 minutes/week for middle and high school students) for the entire school year. Students in grades 7-12 physical education will be taught by a certified physical education teacher. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Daily Recess. All elementary school students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which time staff should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Staff should discourage extended periods (*i.e.*, periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as school-wide testing make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, staff should give students periodic breaks and encourage them to stand and be moderately active.

Extracurricular Physical Activity Opportunities. AUESD should offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. All high schools, and middle schools as appropriate, should offer interscholastic sports programs. Schools should offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including boys, girls, students with disabilities, and students with special health-care needs.

After-school programs should provide and encourage daily periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity for all students.

V. Monitoring and Policy Review

Monitoring. The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance to the school district superintendent or designee.

School food service director, at the school or district level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent (or if done at the school level, to the school principal). In addition, the director will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the district has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible.

Policy Review. To help assess the district's wellness policy, each school in the district will evaluate existing nutrition and physical activity environment and policy. Their results will be compiled to identify and prioritize needs.

Evaluations will be conducted yearly to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the Armona Union Elementary School district will review its nutrition and physical activity policies and revise as necessary