

WELLNESS POLICY

The Raymond School 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 inter-related. It is, therefore, the goal of the Board that the learning environment be aligned to positively influence 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. The schools shall comply with the nutrition guidelines outlined in this policy in a manner designed to facilitate the adoption of healthier eating habits.

Nutrition Guidelines:

The Raymond School District's nutritional standards are based upon standards established under the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) and its subsequent revisions. These nutrition guidelines, apply to all foods available to students on school grounds during the school day from midnight of the previous day until a minimum of 30 minutes after the final bell, 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 Wellness Committee will request that the Superintendent notify the 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 under HHFKA, its laws, and regulations.

Administration of the school meal program will be by qualified school food service staff. School lunches and breakfast programs will offer a variety of foods and choices for students. Nutritional information about school meals will be available upon request. Menus will be available on the school website, in the cafeterias, 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, the Raymond School District will provide a breakfast program as well as lunch.

D. Meal Times and Scheduling: Schools whenever possible:

1. Shall ensure students have sufficient time to eat breakfast and lunch in accordance with the HHFKA.
2. Shall 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 HHFKA and its "Smart Snack" guidelines.

1. Elementary Schools: The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools. Foods in elementary school are sold only as balanced meals with the exception of milk, which can be purchased separately.
2. Middle and High Schools: In middle and high school, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, fundraising, etc.) to students during the school day will meet the standards set under HHFKA and Smart Snack criteria.

F. Fundraising Activities: To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school sponsored fundraising activities (direct school affiliation) should include foods that qualify under HHFKA and Smart Snack criteria. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation's "Smart Snack Calculator" and the Food Service Director may be used as resources for determining qualifying items. Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The school district will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

G. Rewards: Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

H. Snacks/Lunches: Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables or Smart Snack qualifying items as the primary snacks, and water as the primary beverage.

Students are discouraged from bringing unhealthy foods or beverages to school for either snack or lunch. Examples of these are any soda, high calorie/caffeinated energy drinks and food items that are high in sugar, fat or sodium content.

Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other considerations. The district will disseminate a list of healthful snack items and the Smart Snack Calculator link to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

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 for sale. (Food items available after lunch and after school.) Food items being sold in the school store will also be subject to the competitive foods standards. The sale of competitive food to students will be prohibited from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day, or what may be considered the instructional day.

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 under Smart Snacks and HHFKA. The district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers. 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 classroom food related events will communicate with school food services managers to assist with nutritional planning and reducing food waste.

K. Classroom Activities: Schools shall discourage the use of food items for instructional purposes unless as part of the course curriculum. 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.

Plan for the Established Committee to Measure 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. **Annual notification of the Wellness Policy will go out each November via the Community Newsletter and an announcement on the District Website Homepage.** Each Building Principal is charged with the operational responsibility for ensuring that their school follows the guidelines set forth in this

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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. Progress reports will be provided to the School Board once per year. **Additionally, the Wellness Committee will determine two measurable goals each year to assess development and implementation of for the following school year. The Committee will review the policy every three years and recommend updates or modifications as appropriate.**

Community Involvement:

The Board will establish 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 be appointed by the Superintendent. The Committee will consist of a group representing parents, 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.

Legal References:

RSA 189:11-a, Food and Nutrition Programs

Section 204 of Public Law 108-265, Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004

Ed 306.04(a)(20), Wellness

Ed 306.401, Health and Wellness Education Program

Adopted: July 19, 2006

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