

Iberville Parish School Board

Wellness Policy

On June 30, 2004, Congress passed Section 204 of Public law 108-265, of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. This law requires each local education agency participating in a program, authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S. 1751 et seq.) or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), to establish a local school wellness policy by July 1, 2006.

The Iberville Parish School Board recognizes that schools should play a vital role in promoting student health, preventing childhood obesity, and combating problems associated with poor nutrition and physical activity. The School Board shall promote a healthy school environment by supporting and emphasizing student wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity and making these an integral part of the total learning environment.

Schools have a responsibility to help students learn, establish, and maintain patterns of nutrition and physical activity that facilitate a healthy environment. Well-planned and effectively implemented school nutrition and fitness programs serve to enhance a student's overall health, as well as their behavior and academic achievement. The School Board shall require that all foods made available on school campuses should offer children nutritious choices, and physical activity should be incorporated into the school day as often as possible.

The Iberville Parish School Board shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive plan to encourage healthy eating and physical activity in all public schools of Iberville Parish. The plan shall make effective use of school and community resources and equitably serve the needs and interests of all schools and staff.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for assuring compliance with the 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 Superintendent or his/her designee.

School food service staff, at the school or district level, shall assess compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and report on this matter to the Superintendent (or if done at the school level, to the school principal).

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop a summary report at least annually on compliance with the district's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the district. The report will be provided to the School Board and also distributed to the schools, parent/teacher organizations, school principals, and school health services office.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Iberville Parish School District that:

- 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 at school will meet the nutrition requirements as outlined in *Bulletin 1196*.
- 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; will accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- To the maximum extent practicable, all schools in our district will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program).
- 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.

Federal and State Requirements

The Iberville Parish school district will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Louisiana Department of Education, Office of School and Community Support.
- Provide school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Louisiana Department of Education, Office of School and Community Support.
- Encourage school staff and families to participate in school meal programs.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are qualified according to current professional standards (*Policies of Operation, Bulletin 1196*).
- Establish food safety as a key component of all school food operations and ensure that the food service permit is current for the Food Service school site.
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (refer to *Bulletin 1196*).
- Establish guidelines for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting health and reducing obesity. (see “Other School Policies.”)

School District Policies

The Iberville Parish school district will provide:

- Adequate time for breakfast and strive to provide the recommended 30 minutes for lunch.
- Whole and enriched grain products that are high in fiber, low in added fats and sugars, and served in appropriate portion sizes consistent with the current USDA standards.
- Fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruits and vegetables using healthy food preparation techniques and 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice.
- Nonfat, **reduced fat**, low-fat, plain and/or flavored milk and milk products, **reduced fat** and/or low-fat real cheese.
- Healthy food preparation techniques for lean meat, poultry, and fish.
- School meals accessible to all students with a variety of delivery strategies. Examples: grab-and-go meals, or alternate eating sites.
- A cafeteria environment conducive to a positive dining experience, with socializing among students and between students and adults; with supervision of eating areas by adults who model proper conduct and voice level; and with adults who model healthy habits by eating with the students.

Other School Policies

The Iberville Parish school district will:

- Strongly discourage the use of unhealthy food items as **rewards** for student accomplishment. (See appendix A for reward alternatives.)
- Encourage serving healthy food at school **parties**. Notices shall be sent to parents/guardians either separately or as part of a school newsletter, reminding them of the necessity of providing healthy treats for students and/or encouraging the use of non-food treats for classroom birthday or award celebrations. (See appendix B for healthy school parties.)
- Strongly discourage selling food items of limited nutritional value as **fundraisers**, such as candy, cupcakes, or sugar beverages. (See appendix C for healthy fundraising alternatives.)
- Encourage nutritious and appealing options (such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, beef jerky, reduced-fat milk, reduced fat-yogurt, reduced-fat cheese, 100% juice and water) whenever foods/beverages are sold or otherwise offered **after school** at sporting and academic events, celebrations, social events, after school care, and other school functions.

Food Marketing

- School-based marketing should be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, it is recommended that schools limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually. School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages is strongly discouraged. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy foods is encouraged.
- Marketing activities that promote healthful behaviors include: vending machine covers promoting water or milk; and pricing structures that promote healthy options in vending machines.
- The goal of improving nutritional intake can also be accomplished by applying basic marketing strategies to sales of healthful options.

Nutrition Education

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advocates the need for school-based nutrition education. Teachers, food service personnel, and other staff can offer their expertise and model appropriate eating behaviors. Additionally, students have opportunities to practice healthful eating behaviors at school. Collaboration among school food service staff, teachers, the community, families and institutional services is necessary.

The Iberville Parish school district will:

- Promote and implement nutrition education that promotes lifelong healthful eating practices;
- Use lessons that are age-appropriate, behaviorally focused content that is developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant;
- Use lessons that are sequential and are correlated with standards, benchmarks, and grade level expectations;
- Provide hands-on activities that are fun;
- Provide repeated opportunities for students to taste foods that are low in fat, sodium and added sugars and high in vitamins, minerals and fiber;
- Focus on positive aspects of healthful eating behaviors; and
- Promote social learning techniques such as role modeling, providing incentives, developing social resistance skills, overcoming barriers to behavioral changes and goal setting. social resistance skills, overcoming barriers to behavioral changes and goal setting.
- Strive toward hiring highly qualified, certified health education teachers.

Physical Education

Both regular physical activity and nutrition mutually contribute to healthy citizens and reduce the incidence of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, depression, obesity, and other chronic health problems. Federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend that children and teenagers be physically active for an accumulation of at least 60 minutes daily. Since children spend the majority of their time at school during weekdays, it is imperative that schools provide students with the means to participate in physical activity.

When examining Physical Education programs, ask the question, “Does the physical education program help every student attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for them to lead an active, productive life and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness?” Quality physical education programs include the following components:

In Louisiana, Act 814 passed in 2003 to require that public schools for grades K-6 provide 30 minutes each day of quality physical activity. **Act 734**, passed in 2004, revised Act 814 wording to require 30 minutes each school day of *quality, moderate to vigorous physical activity for students*. Implementation of Act 734 requirements began with the 2004-5 school year.

The Iberville Parish school district will:

- Promote and implement quality physical education programs that emphasize and promote participation in lifelong physical activities and reaching a health enhancing level of physical fitness among all students.
- Provide students in grades K-8 with a minimum of 150 minutes per week of health and physical education.
- Strive towards having students in grades K-6 have opportunities to participate in planned, organized, moderate to vigorous physical activity for a minimum of 30 minutes each school day.
- Strive toward having qualified, certified physical education teachers guide physical activity instruction in all elementary grades as well as in middle and high school physical education classes.
- Provide staff development on standards implementation for physical education instructors.
- Ensure that adequate safety policies and provisions are in place for physical education programs.
- Strive toward ensuring that adequate equipment is in place to guarantee that all students are able to be active for a minimum of 30 minutes per school day.
- Strive toward providing a variety of fitness training, motor skills, and team work modules in the 270 hours of physical education required at the high school level for graduation.
- Strive toward providing age-appropriate equipment and facilities for implementing quality physical education programs.

Physical Activity Opportunities

In order to improve health and fitness of our students and to prevent childhood obesity, we must put increased emphasis on the importance of physical activity for students. The following recommendations are made in the best interest of students recognizing that schools, parents and communities will need to be creative in finding additional opportunities and resources for physical activity outside physical education classes.

The Iberville Parish school district will provide opportunities for physical activity:

- Recognize that daily physical activity is essential to student welfare and academic performance.
- Encourage physical activity during recess for elementary students, intramural programs, integration into the academic curriculum, and clubs as well as in physical education programs.
- Provide daily recreational period for all children in K-8th grade.
- Encourage parents and guardians to support students' participation in physical activities, to be physically active role-models, and to include physical activities in family plans.
- Encourage school staff to participate in physical activities to serve as role models.
- Support community-based physical activity programs.

Policy Review

Assessments will be repeated every 3 to 5 years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. Should any revisions arise as part of the review, the School Board and staff shall review the policy. The School Board and individual schools within the district will, as necessary, revise the policy.

Ref: PI 108-265 (Section 204, Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004); 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. (Child Nutrition Act of 1966); 7 CFR 220 (School Breakfast Program)

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the Iberville Parish School Wellness Policy:

A. Competitive Foods: Foods and beverages sold or made available to students that compete with the school's operation of the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. This definition includes, but is not limited to, food and beverages sold or provided in vending machines, in school stores or as part of in-school fundraisers. In-school fundraisers include food items sold by school administrators or staff (principals, coaches, teachers, etc.), students or student groups, parents or parent groups, or any other person, company or organization. These items may be sold at school *only* if they meet the requirements *SBESE Bulletin 1196*.

B. Elementary School: School with grade 9 and one or more lower grades, but not grades 10, 11, or 12; schools with any single grade or combination of grades below grade 9.

C. FMNV: Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value. Refers to the four categories of foods and beverages (soft drinks, water ices, chewing gum, and certain candies) that are restricted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the child nutrition programs. (See section on FMNV.)

D. Food Service: Refers to the school's operation of the National School Program and School Breakfast Program and includes all food service operations conducted by the school principally for the benefit of school children, all of the revenue from which is used solely for the operation or improvement of such food services.

E. Fruit or Vegetable Drink: Beverages labeled as containing fruit or vegetable juice in amounts less than 100 percent

F. Fruit or Vegetable Juice: Beverages labeled as containing 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice.

G. High School: any school whose grade structure falls within the 6 through 12 range and includes grades in the 10 to 12 range, or any school that contains only grade 9.

H. School Day: For the purpose of the Louisiana School Wellness Policy, the school day begins during a period of thirty minutes prior to and thirty minutes after the end of the normal school day

I. School Meals: Meals provided under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for which schools receive reimbursement in accordance with all applicable federal regulations, policies, instructions and guidelines.

Alternatives to Using Food as a Reward

At school, home, and throughout the community kids are offered food as a reward for “good” behavior. Often these foods have little or no nutritional value but are easy, inexpensive, and can bring about short-term behavior change.

There are many disadvantages to using food as a reward:

- ◆It undermines nutrition education being taught in the school environment.
- ◆It encourages over-consumption of foods high in added sugar and fat.
- ◆It teaches kids to eat when they’re not hungry as a reward to themselves.

*Kids learn preferences for foods made available to them, including those that are unhealthy.

*Poor food choices and inadequate physical activity contribute to overweight and obesity.

Students Learn What They Live

Kids naturally enjoy eating healthy and being physically active. Schools and communities need to provide them with an environment that supports healthy behaviors. Below are some alternatives for students to enjoy instead of being offered food as a reward at school.

ZERO-COST ALTERNATIVES

- ◆Sit by friends ◆Watch a video
- ◆Read outdoors ◆Teach the class
- ◆Have an extra art time ◆Enjoy class outdoors
- ◆Have an extra recess ◆Play a computer game
- ◆Read to a younger class ◆Get a no homework pass
- ◆Make deliveries to the office
- ◆Listen to music while working
- ◆Play a favorite game or puzzle
- ◆Earn play money for privileges
- ◆Walk with a teacher during lunch
- ◆Eat lunch outdoors with the class
- ◆Be a helper in another classroom
- ◆Eat lunch with a teacher or principal
- ◆Get “free choice” time at the end of the day
- ◆Listen with a headset to a book on audiotape
- ◆Have a teacher perform special skills (i.e. sing)
- ◆Have a teacher read a special book to the class
- ◆Give a 5-minute chat break at the end of the day

LOW-COST ALTERNATIVES

- ◆Select a paperback book
- ◆Enter a drawing for donated prizes
- ◆Take a trip to the treasure box (non-food items)
- ◆Get stickers, pencils, and other school supplies
- ◆Receive a video store or movie theatre coupon
- ◆Get a set of flash cards printed from a computer
- ◆Receive a “mystery pack” (notepad, folder, sports cards, etc.)

Adapted from: **Tips and Tools to Help Implement Michigan’s Healthy Food and Beverage Policy**, <http://www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/toolkit.pdf>

Healthy School Parties

School can play a major role in helping students become fit, healthy and ready to learn. One way to accomplish this is for foods offered in schools to support lessons learned in the classroom regarding nutrition and physical activity. What better venue than schools—which have a great impact on children—to support the message that proper nutrition and physical activity are a key part of a healthy lifestyle? Positive examples of making healthy eating choices and encouraging physical activity should be visible throughout the school. Parties as well as cafeterias, school stores, vending machines, and after-school events offer opportunities for schools to reinforce the message that making healthy food choices and being physically active means a healthier body and a sharper mind.

Snack Ideas for School & Classroom Parties

Of course, the foods offered at school parties should add to the fun, but try to avoid making them the main focus. Remember, schools are responsible for helping students learn lessons about good nutrition and healthy lifestyles and students should practice these lessons during school parties. For example, consider combining student birthday parties into one monthly event that incorporates physical activities as well as healthy snacks. Also, be sure to consider ethnic and medical food restrictions and allergies when providing classroom snacks.

Here is a list of healthy snack choices to consider for classroom events. Serving all healthy foods and incorporating physical activities make a powerful statement. Actions speak louder than words: Lead by example.

- ◆ Fresh fruit and vegetables – Buy locally when possible
- ◆ Baby carrots and other vegetables with Lowfat dip
- ◆ Yogurt
- ◆ Trail mix*
- ◆ Nuts and seeds*
- ◆ Fig cookies
- ◆ Animal crackers
- ◆ Baked chips
- ◆ Lowfat popcorn
- ◆ 100% fruit juice (small single-serves)
- ◆ Granola bars*
- ◆ Bagels with lowfat cream cheese
- ◆ Soft pretzels and mustard
- ◆ Pizza (no extra cheese and no more than one meat)
- ◆ Pudding
- ◆ String cheese
- ◆ Cereal bar
- ◆ Single-serve lowfat or fat free milk (regular or flavored)
- ◆ Bottled water (including unsweetened flavored water)

*May be allergens and/or a choking risk for some people. Please check with a health care provider.

Adapted from: Tips and Tools to Help Implement Michigan’s Healthy Food and Beverage Policy, <http://www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/toolkit.pdf>

Smart Fundraisers for Today's Healthy Schools

Raising money may present a constant challenge for schools. School fundraisers may help pay for computers, field trips, athletics, music, art, and other programs that educate and enrich young lives – important programs that are not always covered by shrinking school budgets. More than just raising money to pay for valuable programs, a well-run fundraiser can also be an experience that educates, builds self-esteem, provides community service, and promotes school and community spirit.

Fundraising doesn't have to involve selling food items of limited nutritional value, such as candy. Following are web sites and fundraising ideas that offer alternatives to selling candy. When healthy food choices are used as fundraising items, the healthy eating message presented in the schools is reinforced. Some of the ideas even have the added benefit of providing additional physical activity opportunities for students.

Take a look and help your school select a creative fundraising alternative to selling foods of limited nutritional value.

Search the Web

Select a search engine and type in "school fundraisers" to access 112,000+ sites.

A few of these sites follow:

◆www.afrds.org/homeframe.html

Association of Fund-Raising Distributors and Suppliers. Site includes a Toolbox with "Fundraising Fundamentals," a checklist for evaluating fundraising companies, and a resource on product fundraising issues and trends.

◆www.PTOtoday.com

Lists fundraising activities by categories, has a "work vs. reward" equation, contains a parent sharing section on "what works, what doesn't and why."

◆www.fundraising-ideas.com

Offers a free newsletter with programs, services, and press releases. Links to www.amazon.com with books on fundraising.

Instead of candy, schools are selling:

- ◆ Fresh and exotic fruit, like cases of citrus fruit
- ◆ High quality potatoes, onions, or other produce items (local or LA produce)
- ◆ Nuts and trail mix
- ◆ Popcorn

Smart Fundraisers for Today's Healthy Schools

Schools are also selling an ever-expanding variety of non-food items such as:

- ◆ Gift wrap
- ◆ Magazine subscriptions
- ◆ Garden seeds
- ◆ Candles
- ◆ Discount coupon books
- ◆ Raffles of gift baskets
- ◆ Plants and flowers
- ◆ School spirit items
- ◆ cookbooks

Schools are also utilizing a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional fundraising events such as:

- ◆ Car washes
- ◆ Walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, skate-a-thons, etc.
- ◆ Family game nights
- ◆ "Hire a student day" for odd jobs, babysitting services, etc. (with proceeds going to the school)
- ◆ 3-on-3 basketball or soccer tournaments
- ◆ Silent auctions
- ◆ Talent shows
- ◆ Family skate nights
- ◆ Monday night football "Dads Night Out"
- ◆ Moms Night Out" restaurant discounts
- ◆ School Movie Night (free movies can be rented at the library)
- ◆ Raffle of dinner prepared by school faculty
- ◆ Fashion Show
- ◆ Dinner and a Movie
- ◆ Dinner Theater (students perform play)
- ◆ Parent "principal of the day"
- ◆ Sell VIP parking spaces