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WELLNESS POLICY

Matrix for Success Academy recognizes the relationship between the health and well-being of students and academic achievement. Students must be healthy to be educated and to be educated to be healthy.

The Matrix for Success Academy wellness policy is a guide for implementing a comprehensive health and wellness plan. The following are wellness areas of focus: Nutrition Services, Physical Education, Health Education, Health Services, Positive Attendance, Building Resiliency, Safe Environment, Staff Wellness, as well as Parent and Community Involvement. This wellness policy is designed to encompass student, parent/legal guardian, staff, and community wellness.

Nutrition Education Guidelines

Matrix for Success Academy will educate, encourage and support healthy eating to all students of all ages.

- Matrix for Success Academy will promote fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat and fat free dairy, healthy food preparation and health enhancing nutrition practices.
- Nutrition Education will be part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies and elective subjects.
- The school cafeteria serves as a “Learning Lab” to all students to apply critical thinking skills taught in the classroom.
- Nutrition Education will involve sharing information with families and the broader community to positively impact students and the health of the community.
- Matrix for Success Academy will promote enjoyable, developmentally and culturally appropriate participatory activities.
- Matrix for Success Academy will offer Nutrition Education at each grade level as a part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.
- The staff responsible for nutrition education will be adequately prepared and participate regularly in professional development activities to effectively deliver an accurate nutrition education program as planned.

[Pazlo Education Foundation]



Local Wellness Policy

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Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

Wellness Policy Committee

Wellness Policy Leadership

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Wellness Policy Committee Members

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Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities

Public Involvement

The Local Education Agency permits and encourages public involvement in Local Wellness Policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, the LEA shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in Local Wellness Policy processes. The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes:

- Matrix for Success Academy website (<http://www.matrix4success.org/>)
- Newsletters

Assessments

Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Pazlo Education Foundation shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every three years and occurring every three years thereafter. These assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy is in compliance with USDA, State, and Local rules and regulations
- Compare the LEA's wellness policy to model wellness policies
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in the LEA's wellness policy

Updates

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate. Pazlo Education Foundation will conduct an annual notification informing and updating the public (parents, students, and others in the community) about the content and implementation of the LSWP, in order to fit the needs and goals of the Local Education Agency. The LEA shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy

Through the following channels:

- Matrix for Success Academy website (<http://www.matrix4success.org/>)
- Newsletters

Records

The Local Education Agency shall maintain record of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process

Nutrition

The Local Education Agency recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the effects of nutrition on the classroom, for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' attendance, behavior and academic success.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 19.7 percent of the nation's youth was considered obese in 2017-20. This percentage increased 1.2 percent when compared to the previous year. Conversely, 16.9 percent of American families experienced food hardship in 2017-20. Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students in order to prevent both overconsumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity to give students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Nutrition Standards

Meals

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (i.e. Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans fat.

Competitive Foods

All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). This includes, but is not limited to, vending machine and à la carte items.

Other Foods and Beverages

- A.** The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the use of food as a reward or as part of a celebration. Providing alternatives to food as a reward promotes healthier habits by reducing exposure to less nutritious food items and, therefore, the amount of calorie-dense food items consumed (e.g. cakes, cookies, candy, etc.). This helps children develop improved food preferences and hunger cues to carry them throughout life. Instead, schools will implement the following methods for rewards and celebrations:
- Extra recess
 - Choosing a class activity
 - Extra art, music, P.E., or reading time
- B.** The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit food and beverage items that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards for reward and celebration purposes. More than 25 percent of children’s daily calories may come from snacks, therefore, providing Smart Snacks allows for a more nutrient-dense calorie intake.

Fundraisers

- A.** All fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

The school shall also utilize non-food fundraisers to promote healthy habits and well-being. The school will implement the following non-food fundraising ideas:

- Recycling
- Game days
- Harvest Festival
- Plants, flowers, bulbs, seeds

Nutrition Education

In accordance with the state of California Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all California requirements and standards for Health Education. The Local Education Agency shall include nutrition education within the health education curriculum and integrate nutrition education into other core subjects, as appropriate. Various grade levels and curriculums shall use nutrition education information, research, and materials from the following resources:

- Dietaryguidelines.gov
- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/team-nutrition>
- Myplate.gov

Nutrition Promotion

The District shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels, including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

The District shall make cafeteria menus and nutrition information available through the following platforms:

- School websites
- Posted on announcement board at main office
- Cafeteria office

The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement uses behavioral economics to positively influence food choices made by children. The evidence-based techniques implemented through the Movement have been proven to increase children's consumption of nutritious foods. The District shall participate in the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement by utilizing the Smarter Lunchrooms 60-point Scorecard and other educational and promotional tools. The District shall implement the following Smarter Lunchrooms techniques:

- Creative name templates
- Smarter lunchrooms Scorecards
- Diagnose the lunchroom
- Data collection techniques

Farm to School efforts positively impact School Nutrition Programs by serving fresh and nutritious food items. Additionally, Farm to School programs have been linked to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. The District shall participate in the following Farm to School activities:

- Start a school garden
- Educate students in agriculture, food, and nutrition

Marketing

- A.** The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement, however, the District shall implement these standards as equipment needs replaced in the future.
- B.** The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement, however, the District shall implement these standards as equipment needs replaced in the future.

Physical Activity

Physical activity is a key component of the health and well-being of all students. Physical activity lowers the risk for certain diseases, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Physical activity also helps improve brain function, allowing students to perform better in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adolescents get at least 60 minutes of physical activity five days per week. Nearly 79 percent of school-age children fall short of meeting this requirement. The Local Education Agency recognizes this connection and commits to promoting and providing opportunities for physical activity during and outside the school day.

Physical Education

In accordance with the Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools K-12, the Local Education Agency shall meet all California requirements and standards for Physical Education. The LEA shall offer Physical Education class as follows:

- **Physical Education courses will be attended for 400 minutes each 10 schooldays**

Other Opportunities for Physical Activity

The District shall include additional physical activity opportunities, outside of Physical Education class, during the school day through the following:

- Brain breaks at the end of class instruction for 10 minutes

The following opportunities for participation in school-based sports shall be offered to students each year:

- Gym
- Cycling
- Weight Lifting
- Walking

Physical Activity Promotion

The District shall promote physical activity through the participation in the following initiative(s):

- Gym
- Cycling
- Weight Lifting
- Walking

Other School-Based Activities

Just as it takes a comprehensive curriculum to provide education to support students' futures, the Local Education Agency's wellness approach must also be comprehensive in its intent to provide students with the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. In order to further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, the LEA commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The Local Education Agency shall offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events shall be organized and promoted each year:

- Arts and Crafts
- Culinary club
- Murals and paintings
- Feeding homeless / less fortunate families
- Tutoring

The following health, wellness, and/or nutrition clubs shall be offered to students each year:

- Gardening
- Healthy cooking