

Rusk ISD Wellness Plan

STUDENT WELFARE
WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES

FFA
(REGULATION)

WELLNESS PLAN

This document, referred to as the “wellness plan”(the plan), is intended to implement policy FFA(LOCAL), which has been adopted by the Board, to comply with the requirements for a school wellness policy. [Section 9A(a) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 U.S.C. 1758b]

STRATEGIES TO SOLICIT INVOLVEMENT

Federal law requires that certain stakeholders be involved in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The District has chosen to use the local school health advisory council (SHAC) to work on behalf of the District to review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in order to develop and implement nutrition guidelines and wellness goals as required by federal law. The SHAC will permit the following persons to work with the SHAC on the District’s wellness policy and plan: parents, students, the District’s food service provider, physical education teachers, school health professionals, Board members, administrators, and members of the public. The SHAC will solicit involvement and input of these other interested persons by posting on the District’s website the dates and times of SHAC meetings at which the wellness policy and plan are scheduled to be discussed.

IMPLEMENTATION

Each campus principal is responsible for the implementation of FFA(LOCAL) and this wellness plan at his or her campus, including the submission of necessary information to the SHAC for evaluation.

The Superintendent is the District official responsible for the overall implementation of FFA(LOCAL), including the development of this wellness plan and any other appropriate administrative procedures, and ensuring that each campus complies with the policy and plan.

EVALUATION

In accordance with law, the District will periodically measure and make available to the public an assessment of the implementation of the District’s wellness policy, the extent to which each campus is compliant with the wellness policy, a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy, and the extent to which the wellness policy compares with any state- or federally designated model wellness policies. Absent federal regulations to the contrary, the District commits to the evaluation activities described below.

At least annually, the SHAC will prepare a report on the wellness policy and this plan by gathering information from each principal and appropriate District administrators. The SHAC will assess the District’s and each campus’s progress toward meeting the goals of the policy and plan by reviewing District- and campus-level activities and events tied to the wellness program.

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The SHAC may use any of the following tools for that analysis:

- Relevant portions of WellSAT2.0 (www.wellsat.org)
- SHAC approved self-assessment

PUBLIC
NOTIFICATION

To comply with the legal requirement to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy, the District will create a wellness page on its website to document information and activity related to the school wellness policy, including:

1. A copy of the wellness policy [FFA(LOCAL)];
2. A copy of this wellness plan, with dated revisions;
3. Notice of any Board revisions to policy FFA(LOCAL);
4. Notice of any SHAC meeting at which the wellness policy or corresponding documents are scheduled to be discussed;
5. The SHAC's annual report on the District's wellness policy and plan; and
6. Any other relevant information.

The District will also publish the above information in appropriate District or campus publications.

RECORDS
RETENTION

Records regarding the District's wellness policy will be retained in accordance with law and the District's records management program. Questions may be directed to the District's records management officer.

GUIDELINES AND
GOALS

The following provisions describe the District's nutrition guidelines and activities and objectives chosen by the SHAC to implement the Board-adopted wellness goals in policy FFA(LOCAL).

NUTRITION
GUIDELINES

All District campuses participate in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Federal law requires that the District establish nutrition guidelines for foods made available on each campus that are consistent with the federal standards and that promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

The District's nutrition guidelines are to ensure all foods and beverages sold, otherwise made available, or marketed to students during the school day adhere to all federal regulations and guidance and are designed to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

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FOODS SOLD

The District will comply with federal requirements for reimbursable meals. For other foods and beverages sold to students during the school day, the District will comply with the federal requirements for competitive foods. Competitive foods and beverages are not part of the regular meal programs and occur through sales such as a la carte options or vending machines. For purposes of this plan, these requirements will be referred to as “Smart Snacks” standards or requirements. The following websites have information regarding meal and Smart Snacks requirements:

- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals>
- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks>
- <http://www.squaremeals.org/Publications/Handbooks.aspx>

**EXCEPTION—
FUNDRAISERS**

State rules adopted by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) allow an exemption to the Smart Snacks requirements for up to six days per year per campus when a food or beverage is sold as part of a District fundraiser. [See CO(LEGAL)]

The District will allow the following exempted fundraisers for each school year:

| Campus or Organization | Food/Beverage | Number of Days |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rusk Primary | Any Competitive Food Item | 6 |
| Rusk Elementary | Any Competitive Food Item | 6 |
| Rusk Intermediate | Any Competitive Food Item | 6 |
| Rusk Jr. High | Any Competitive Food Item | 6 |
| Rusk High School | Any Competitive Food Item | 6 |

**FOODS MADE
AVAILABLE**

There are currently no federal requirements for foods or beverages made available to students during the school day. The District will comply with state law, which allows a parent or grandparent to provide a food product of his or her choice to classmates of the person’s child or grandchild on the occasion of the student’s birthday or to children at a school-designated function. [See CO(LEGAL)]

In addition, the District has established the following local guidelines on foods and beverages made available to students: If a food item is given to students – rather than being sold to them – it is not considered a competitive food; therefore the nutrition standards do not apply. However, the District encourages that events such as classroom celebrations, birthday parties, incentive parties etc.

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hosted by parents, teachers, or administrators offer healthy food alternatives and non-food rewards and activities in support of campus nutrition.

MEASURING
COMPLIANCE

The District will measure compliance with the nutrition guidelines by reviewing meal reimbursement submissions from the child nutrition department to the TDA, reviewing foods and beverages that are sold in competition with the regular school meals, reviewing items sold as part of approved District fundraisers, and monitoring the types of foods and beverages made available to students during the school day.

NUTRITION
PROMOTION

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for nutrition promotion in its wellness policy. The District's nutrition promotion activities will encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and any supplemental food and nutrition programs offered by the District.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) for nutrition promotion.

| <p>GOAL: The District's food service staff, teachers, and other District personnel shall consistently promote healthy nutrition messages in cafeterias, classrooms, and other appropriate settings.</p> | |
|--|---|
| <p>Objective: The District shall provide nutrition promotion at all campuses for students, staff, and visitor awareness. Nutrition promotion shall be a reminder of healthy choices for a healthy life.</p> | |
| Action Steps | Methods for Measuring Implementation |
| <p>Menus designed to promote healthy eating</p> <p>Healthy messages on serving line posters at all campuses</p> <p>Promotional newsletters and nutrition links on the child nutrition website</p> | <p>Baseline or benchmark data points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child nutrition staff will observe eating habits of students • The District will periodically review materials displayed on serving line and information shared on website <p>Resources needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to observe students • Materials to Display <p>Obstacles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone has internet access |

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NUTRITION
EDUCATION

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for nutrition education in its wellness policy. State law also requires that the District implement a coordinated health program with a nutrition services and health education component at the elementary and middle school levels. [See EHAA]

The District will implement the nutrition services and health education component through instruction of the essential knowledge and skills related to nutrition and health and the CATCH program, a program approved by the Texas Education Agency, in the District's physical education and/or Health courses.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) for nutrition education.

| | |
|--|---|
| GOAL: The District shall deliver nutrition education that fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors. | |
| Objective: Health/PE classes K-8 will focus on nutrition education. | |
| Action Steps | Methods for Measuring Implementation |
| Provide nutrition education through PE and/or Health classes at Elementary campuses | <p>Baseline or benchmark data points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of students enrolled in PE and/or Health at the Elementary campuses <p>Resources needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition Education Curriculum (CATCH) <p>Obstacles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition education is only a part of the essential knowledge and skills for physical education and Health courses |

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The District will implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated health program with physical education and physical activity components and will offer at least the required amount of physical activity for all grades. [See BDF, EHAA, EHAB, and EHAC]

The District shall require students in kindergarten through grade 5 to participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes throughout the school year, as part of the District’s physical education program or through structured activity during a campus’s daily recess. If the District determines, for any particular grade level, that requiring moderate or vigorous daily physical activity is impractical due to scheduling concerns or other factors, the District may as an alternative require a student in that grade level to participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 135 minutes during each school week.

The District shall require students in grades 6-8 to participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes for at least four semesters during those grade levels as part of the District’s physical education curriculum.

The District must provide an exemption for a student who is unable to participate in the required physical activity because of illness or disability.

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for physical activity in its wellness policy.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) for physical activity.

| GOAL: The District shall provide an environment that fosters safe, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate fitness activities for all students, including those who are not participating in physical education classes or competitive sports. | |
|--|---|
| Objective: District encourages participation in programs such as Hoops for Heart, Walk for Cancer etc. | |
| Action Steps | Methods for Measuring Implementation |
| Determine program participation by District Implement program | Baseline or benchmark data points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Participants Resources needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected Program Guidelines Obstacles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Participation Rates |

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SCHOOL-BASED
ACTIVITIES

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for other school-based activities in its wellness policy to promote student wellness.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) as part of its student wellness policy to create an environment conducive to healthful eating and physical activity and to promote and express a consistent wellness message.

| <p>GOAL: The District shall allow sufficient time for students to eat meals in cafeteria facilities that are clean, safe, and comfortable.</p> | |
|---|---|
| <p>Objective: All campuses will build their master schedules to allow for at least ten minutes to eat breakfast and 20 minutes to eat lunch, from the time a student receives his or her meal and is seated.</p> | |
| Action Steps | Methods for Measuring Implementation |
| <p>Evaluate current meal time allowances by campus.</p> <p>Work with campus administrators to adjust master schedules as necessary.</p> | <p>Baseline or benchmark data points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of campuses that currently meet the standard <p>Resources needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average time it takes for students to receive a meal and be seated <p>Obstacles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master schedules take into account several issues, only one of which will be meal times |