

# Administrative Regulation

## Wellness, Physical Activity and Nutrition

**Philosophy:** The Board of School Trustees of The Lake Central School Corporation support the health and well-being of the school corporation's students by promoting nutrition and physical activity at all grade levels.

Therefore, in accordance with the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, it is the goal of the Board to:

**Statement of Purpose:** Provide students access to healthy foods and beverages; provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity; and require that all meals served by the school corporation meet or exceed the federal nutritional guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A Coordinated School Health Advisory Council will be formed and maintained to oversee these activities.

### I. Coordinated School Healthy Advisory Council

The Lake Central School Corporation will engage students, parents/guardians, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing corporation-wide nutrition and physical activity policies. A Coordinated School Health Advisory Council will be formed and maintained at the corporation level to oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of the school corporation's wellness policy.

A. In accordance with Indiana Code 20-26-9-18, and the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), the school corporation will form and maintain a corporation level Coordinated School Health Advisory Council that includes at least the following:

- Parents/Guardians
- Food Service Directors and Staff
- Students
- School Health Professionals/Registered Dietitians
- Physical Education Teachers
- School Board Members
- School Administrators
- Any interested members of the general public
- Representatives of interested community organizations

Other potential members of the council include teachers, school nurses, teaching assistants, and community representatives such as recreation professionals, city planners, industry professionals, and voluntary service workers.

B. The Advisory Council shall meet frequently to review nutrition and physical activity policies and to develop an action plan for the coming year. The Council shall meet as needed during the school year to discuss implementation activities and address barriers and challenges.

C. The Advisory Council shall report annually to the Superintendent and School Board on the implementation of the wellness policy and include any recommended changes or revisions.

D. The School Board will adopt or revise nutrition and physical activity policies based on recommendations made by the Advisory Council.

E. The School Wellness Policy shall be made available to students and families by means of the online registration process and the corporation's website.

### II. Nutrition Education and Promotion

Nutrition topics shall be integrated within the comprehensive health education curriculum and taught according to the standards of the Indiana Department of Education. Schools will link nutrition education

and promotion activities with existing coordinated school health programs or other comparable comprehensive school health promotion frameworks.

- A. Nutrition education and promotion of healthy eating will be provided as part of a Comprehensive Health Education Program.
  1. Health education will be taught by a licensed health education instructor.
  2. The school corporation will provide nutrition education training opportunities to teachers and staff for all grade levels.
  3. Nutrition education will include lessons that cover topics such as how to read and use food labels, choosing healthy options and portion control.
  4. School staff will collaborate with community groups and organizations to provide opportunities for student projects related to nutrition (e.g., cultivating school gardens, reading food labels, and maintaining a caloric balance between food intake and physical activity/exercise).
  5. Nutrition education resources will be provided to parents/guardians through handouts, website links, school newsletters, presentations and any other appropriate means available to reach parents/guardians.
  6. Nutrition educators will partner with school staff of the school food service program to use the cafeteria as a learning lab. Healthy items, such as salads and fruits, will be displayed prominently in cafeterias to make healthier choices more appealing.
  7. Nutrition labels will be provided on all foods to allow students to easily identify healthier foods.
  8. Foods of minimal nutritional value, including brands and illustrations, shall not be advertised or marketed in educational materials.

### **III. Standards for USDA Child Nutrition Programs and School Meals**

The Lake Central School Corporation will provide and promote the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs to ensure that all students have access to healthy foods to support healthier choices and promote optimal learning.

#### **A. School Meal Content**

1. Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:
  - Be appealing and appetizing to children;
  - Meet, at minimum, the nutrition requirements established by the USDA for federally funded programs;
  - Contain 0 percent trans fats;
  - Offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
  - 100% of the grains offered are whole grain-rich
2. All cooked foods will be baked or steamed. Proper procurement procedures and preparation methods will be used to decrease excess fat, calorie and sodium levels in food.
3. Schools are encouraged to purchase or obtain fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers when practical.
4. Students will have the opportunity to provide input on local, cultural and ethnic favorites.
5. The food services department shall provide periodic food promotions that will allow for taste testing of new healthier foods being introduced on the menu.
6. Special dietary needs of students will be considered when planning meals, according to the document Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs in the School Nutrition Programs.
7. The food service department will share and publicize information about the nutritional content of meals with students and parents/guardians. The information will be available in a variety of forms that can include handouts, the school website, articles, school newsletters, presentations that focus

on nutrition and healthy lifestyles, and through any other appropriate means available to reach families.

B. School Meal Participation

1. To the extent possible, schools will provide the USDA School Breakfast Program to all students.
2. To the extent possible, schools will utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast and arranging transportation schedules to allow for earlier arrival times.

C. Mealtimes and Scheduling

1. Adequate time will be provided to students to eat lunch (at least 20 minutes after being served) and breakfast (at least 10 minutes after being served).
2. School meals will be served in clean pleasant settings.
3. Students will have convenient access to hand-washing and sanitizing stations.
4. Potable (drinking) water must be readily available at all mealtimes.
5. Appropriate supervision will be provided in the cafeteria and rules for safe behavior shall be consistently enforced.

D. Professional Development

1. Professional development and training will be provided at least annually to food service managers and staff on proper food handling techniques and healthy cooking practices.

**IV. Nutrition Standards for Competitive and Other Foods and Beverages**

The Lake Central School Corporation will provide and allow foods and beverages that support proper nutrition and promote healthy choices that will meet up to 50% of the USDA Nutrition Standards in vending machines, school stores and concession stands.

A. Approved Nutrition Standards, based on the nutrition standards of the Institute of Medicine (2007) and the standards of the USDA Smart Snacks.

1. K-12 a la carte, school vending machines and other foods outside of school meals shall be limited to:
  - No more than 30 percent of total calories from fat,
  - Less than 10 percent of total calories from saturated fats,
  - 0 percent trans fats,
  - No more than 35 percent of calories from total sugars,
  - No more than 200 milligrams of sodium per portion as packaged,
  - No more than 200 calories per package, and
  - 100 percent of the grains offered are whole grain-rich.
2. K-12 a la carte, school vending machines and other beverages outside of school meals shall be limited to:
  - Water without flavoring, additives, or carbonation,
  - Low-fat and nonfat milk (in 8-to 12-ounce portions),
  - 100% fruit juice in 4-ounce portions as packaged for elementary/middle school and 8 ounces (2 portions) for high school, and
  - All beverages other than water, white milk or juice shall be no larger than 12 ounces.

B. Availability

1. A vending machine at an elementary school that dispenses food or beverage items may not be accessible to students.
2. Vending machines in middle and high schools:
  - Will not be available during mealtimes.
  - Will be off before school and turned on 30 minutes after school.

- Will contain items that meet at least 50% of the approved nutrition standards.
3. Vending machines for school staff will not be accessible to students.
  4. Food and beverages will not be sold in school stores.
  5. Students and staff will have free, potable (drinking) water for consumption available in water fountains throughout the school building.
- C. Concession Stands
1. The concession items sold at school-sponsored events to participants, fans and visitors shall include at least 50 percent healthy beverages and foods, according to the approved nutrition standards.
- D. Classroom Celebrations
1. Schools shall inform parents/guardians of the classroom celebration guidelines and supply a list of allergies to avoid when applicable.
  2. Classroom celebrations will be permitted during Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day and student birthdays. All other celebrations will focus on activities (e.g., giving free time, extra recess, music and reading time) rather than on food.
  3. Classroom celebrations should make a positive contribution to children's diets and health with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as a the primary beverage. All food and beverages items will need to be store bought and left in original sealed packing.
- E. Food as a Reward or Punishment
1. Teachers and staff will discourage using food as a reward. For example, the use of sugar-sweetened beverages or candy as a classroom reward at any school is not appropriate.
  2. School staff will not withhold food or drink at mealtimes as punishment.
- F. Fundraisers
1. Fundraising activities will support healthy eating and wellness. Schools will promote the sale of non-food items for school-sponsored fundraising. For a food or beverage item to be sold as a fundraiser during the school day, it must meet the approved nutrition standards.
  2. Fundraisers need not meet the approved nutritional standards if the food or beverage is being consumed 30 minutes or more after the school day or away from school grounds.

## **V. Physical Activity and Physical Education**

Lake Central supports the health and well-being of students by promoting physical activity through physical education, recess and other physical activity breaks; before-and after-school activities; and walking and bicycling to school. Additionally, Lake Central supports physical activity among elementary students by providing them with at least 30 of the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

- A. Physical Education K-12
1. All students in grades K-12 will participate in physical education in order to meet the Physical Education Standards and graduation requirements. The high school counselors will encourage students to take elective physical education classes.
  2. The physical education program will provide adequate space and equipment to ensure quality physical education classes for students.
  3. Physical education will be taught by a certified physical education instructor.
  4. All staff involved in physical education will be provided opportunities for professional development focusing on physical activity, fitness, health, and wellness.
- B. Daily Recess and Physical Activity Breaks
1. Each elementary school shall provide daily physical activity in accordance with Indiana Code 20-30-5-7.5.
  2. All teachers will be encouraged to use physical activity breaks when possible.

- C. Physical Activity and Remedial Activities/Punishment
  - 1. School staff will not use physical activity (e.g. running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g. recess, physical education) as punishment.
- D. Walking and Bicycling to School
  - 1. Where appropriate and safe; schools will allow walking and bicycling to school.
  - 2. The school corporation will explore the availability of both local and federal funds (e.g. Safe Routes to School funds administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation) to support local government in improving safe routes to school.

## **VI. Staff Wellness**

Lake Central School supports the health and well-being of our staff by creating and promoting policy and environmental supports to provide physical activity and healthy eating opportunities.

- A. Nutrition and Physical Activity
  - 1. The school corporation will promote programs to increase knowledge of physical activity and healthy eating for faculty and staff.
  - 2. The school corporation's benefits department will work with local fitness centers to offer reduced membership fees.
  - 3. Schools will allow staff to use school facilities outside of school hours for activities such as group fitness classes, walking programs and individual use.
  - 4. Staff will be encouraged to participate in community walking, bicycling or running events.
  - 5. At least 50 percent of the food options available at staff meetings will meet the approved nutrition standards. During meetings lasting longer than one hour, staff will have the opportunity to stretch and be physically active.
  - 6. Schools will promote breastfeeding by making reasonable efforts to provide a private location for employees to express breast milk, in accordance with Indiana Code 22-2-14-1.

## **VII. Evaluation**

Lake Central School Corporation is committed to enforcing the guidelines included in this document. Through implementation of the Wellness, Physical Activity and Nutrition regulations, the corporation will create an environment that supports opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating behaviors.