



Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition

Preamble

Whereas, children need access to healthful foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive;

Whereas, good health fosters student attendance and education;

Whereas, obesity rates have doubled in children and tripled in adolescents over the last two decades, and physical inactivity and excessive calorie intake are the predominant causes of obesity;

Whereas, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for two-thirds of deaths in the United States, and major risk factors for those diseases, including unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, and obesity, often are established in childhood;

Whereas, 33% of high school students do not participate in sufficient vigorous physical activity and 72% of high school students do not attend daily physical education classes;

Whereas, only 2% of children (2 to 19 years) eat a healthy diet consistent with the five main recommendations from the Food Guide Pyramid;

Whereas, nationally, the items most commonly sold from school vending machines, school stores, and snack bars include low-nutrition foods and beverages, such as soda, sports drinks, imitation fruit juices, chips, candy, cookies, and snack cakes;

Whereas, school districts around the country are facing significant fiscal and scheduling constraints; and

Whereas, community participation is essential to the development and implementation of successful school wellness policies;

Thus, the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District that:

- The school district will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing districtwide nutrition and physical activity policies.
- 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 recommendations of the *U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- 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 and National School Lunch 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.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. School Health Councils

The school district and/or individual schools within the district will create, strengthen, or work within existing school health councils to develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The councils also will serve as resources to school sites for implementing those policies. (A school health council consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and should include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.)

II. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;
- serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally-equivalent nondairy alternatives (to be defined by USDA); and
- ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain.

Breakfast. To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn:

- Schools will, to the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program.
- Schools will, to the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast during morning break or recess.
- Schools that serve breakfast to students will notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.

- Schools will encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials, or other means.

Free and Reduced-priced Meals. Schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Toward this end, schools may utilize electronic identification and payment systems and promote the availability of school meals to all students.

Meal Times and Scheduling. Schools:

- will provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch;
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, *e.g.*, lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.;
- should not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
- will schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools);
- will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and
- should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (*e.g.*, orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, we will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, school nutrition managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages. Schools should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Foods and Beverages Sold Individually (*i.e.*, foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

Elementary Schools. The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food in elementary schools should be sold as balanced meals. If available, foods and beverages sold individually should be limited to low-fat and non-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables.

Middle/Junior High and High Schools. In middle/junior high and high schools, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day, will meet the following nutrition and portion size standards:

Beverages

- Allowed: water or seltzer water without added caloric sweeteners; fruit and vegetable juices and fruit-based drinks that contain at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; unflavored or flavored low-fat or fat-free fluid milk and nutritionally-equivalent nondairy beverages (to be defined by USDA);
- Not allowed: soft drinks containing caloric sweeteners; sports drinks; iced teas; fruit-based drinks that contain less than 50% real fruit juice or that contain additional caloric sweeteners; beverages containing caffeine, excluding low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk (which contain trivial amounts of caffeine).

Foods

- A food item sold individually:
 - will have no more than 35% of its calories from fat (excluding nuts, seeds, peanut butter, and other nut butters) and 10% of its calories from saturated and trans fat combined;
 - will have no more than 35% of its *weight* from added sugars;
 - will contain no more than 230 mg of sodium per serving for chips, cereals, crackers, French fries, baked goods, and other snack items; will contain no more than 480 mg of sodium per serving for pastas, meats, and soups; and will contain no more than 600 mg of sodium for pizza, sandwiches, and main dishes.
- A choice of at least two fruits and/or non-fried vegetables will be offered for sale at any location on the school site where foods are sold. Such items could include, but are not limited to, fresh fruits and vegetables; 100% fruit or vegetable juice; fruit-based drinks that are at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; cooked, dried, or canned fruits (canned in fruit juice or light syrup); and cooked, dried, or canned vegetables (that meet the above fat and sodium guidelines).

Portion Sizes:

- Limit portion sizes of foods and beverages sold individually to those listed below:
 - One and one-quarter ounces for chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, or jerky;
 - One ounce for cookies;
 - Two ounces for cereal bars, granola bars, pastries, muffins, doughnuts, bagels, and other bakery items;
 - Four fluid ounces for frozen desserts, including, but not limited to, low-fat or fat-free ice cream;
 - Eight ounces for non-frozen yogurt;
 - Twelve fluid ounces for beverages, excluding water; and
 - The portion size of a la carte entrees and side dishes, including potatoes, will not be greater than the size of comparable portions offered as part of school meals. Fruits and non-fried vegetables are exempt from portion-size limits.

Fundraising Activities. To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school fundraising activities will not involve food or will use only foods that meet the above nutrition and portion size standards for foods and beverages sold individually. Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The school district will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

Snacks. 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 as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. 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 to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

- If eligible, schools that provide snacks through after-school programs will pursue receiving reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program.

Rewards. Schools will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above), as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations. Schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). The district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion. Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fatfree dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise);
- links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition related community services;
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing; and
- includes training for teachers and other staff.

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting. For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity (*i.e.*, at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons; and
- classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Communications with Parents. The district/school will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The district will send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on district websites, and provide nutrient analyses of school menus. Schools should encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the above nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. The district will provide parents a list of foods that meet the district's snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities. The district will provide information about physical education and other school based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

Food Marketing in Schools. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, schools will 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 (above). School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages is prohibited. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K-10. All students in grades K-10, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive daily physical education (or its equivalent of 150 minutes/week for elementary school students and 225 minutes/week for middle and high school students) for the entire school year. All physical education will be taught by a certified physical education teacher. Student involvement in other activities involving physical activity (e.g., interscholastic or intramural sports) will not be substituted for meeting the physical education requirement. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Daily Recess. All elementary school students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment. Schools should discourage extended periods (*i.e.*, periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it

necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School. The high school will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. The high school will offer interscholastic sports programs. Schools will offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including boys, girls, students with disabilities, and students with special health-care needs. After-school child care and enrichment programs will provide and encourage – verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and activities – daily periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity for all participants.

Physical Activity and Punishment. Teachers and other school and community personnel will not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education) as punishment.

V. Monitoring and Policy Review

Monitoring. The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with 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 school district superintendent or designee. School food service staff, at the school or district level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent (or if done at the school level, to the school principal). In addition, the school district will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the district has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible. The superintendent or designee will develop a summary report every three years on district-wide compliance with the district's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the district. That report will be provided to the school board and also distributed to all school principals and school health services personnel in the district.

VI. Resources for Local School Wellness Policies on Nutrition and Physical Activity

Crosscutting:

- *School Health Index*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/shi/>>
- Local Wellness Policy website, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <<http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/wellnesspolicy.html>>
- *Fit, Healthy, and Ready to Learn: a School Health Policy Guide*, National Association of State Boards of Education, <www.nasbe.org/HealthySchools/fithealthy.mgi>
- *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance*, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, <www.iom.edu/report.asp?id=22596>
- *The Learning Connection: The Value of Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity in Our Schools*, Action for Healthy Kids, <www.actionforhealthykids.org/docs/specialreports/LC%20Color%20_120204_fin>

al.pdf>

- *Ten Strategies for Promoting Physical Activity, Healthy Eating, and a Tobacco-free Lifestyle through School Health Programs*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/publications/pdf/ten_strategies.pdf>
- *Health, Mental Health, and Safety Guidelines for Schools*, American Academy of Pediatrics and National Association of School Nurses, <<http://www.nationalguidelines.org>>
- *Cardiovascular Health Promotion in Schools*, American Heart Association [link to pdf]

School Health Councils:

- *Promoting Healthy Youth, Schools and Communities: A Guide to Community-School Health Councils*, American Cancer Society [link to PDF]
- *Effective School Health Advisory Councils: Moving from Policy to Action*, Public Schools of North Carolina, <www.nhealthyschools.org/nhealthyschools/htdocs/SHAC_manual.pdf>

Nutrition:

General Resources on Nutrition

- *Making it Happen: School Nutrition Success Stories*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of Education, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/nutrition/Making-It-Happen/>>
- *Changing the Scene: Improving the School Nutrition Environment Toolkit*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/changing.html>
- *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture, <www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/document/>
- *Guidelines for School Health Programs to Promote Lifelong Healthy Eating*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr4509.pdf>
- *Healthy Food Policy Resource Guide*, California School Boards Association and California Project LEAN, <www.csba.org/ps/hf.htm>
- *Diet and Oral Health*, American Dental Association, <<http://www.ada.org/public/topics/diet.asp>>

School Meals

- *Healthy School Meals Resource System*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <<http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/>>
- *School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Study–II*, a U.S. Department of Agriculture study of the foods served in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, <www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/SNDAllfind.pdf>
- *Local Support for Nutrition Integrity in Schools*, American Dietetic Association, <www.eatright.org/Member/Files/Local.pdf>
- *Nutrition Services: an Essential Component of Comprehensive Health Programs*, American Dietetic Association, <www.eatright.org/Public/NutritionInformation/92_8243.cfm>

- *HealthierUS School Challenge*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.htm>
- *Breakfast for Learning*, Food Research and Action Center, <www.frac.org/pdf/breakfastforlearning.PDF>
- *School Breakfast Scorecard*, Food Research and Action Center, <www.frac.org/School_Breakfast_Report/2004/ >
- *Arkansas Child Health Advisory Committee Recommendations* [includes recommendation for professional development for child nutrition professionals in schools], <www.healthylarkansas.com/advisory_committee/pdf/final_recommendations.pdf>

Meal Times and Scheduling

- *Eating at School: A Summary of NFSMI Research on Time Required by Students to Eat Lunch*, National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) [Attach PDF file]
 - *Relationships of Meal and Recess Schedules to Plate Waste in Elementary Schools*, National Food Service Management Institute, <www.nfsmi.org/Information/Newsletters/insight24.pdf >

Nutrition Standards for Foods and Beverages Sold Individually

- *Recommendations for Competitive Foods Standards* (a report by the National Consensus Panel on School Nutrition), California Center for Public Health Advocacy, <www.publichealthadvocacy.org/school_food_standards/school_food_standards/Nutrition%20Standards%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>
- *State policies for competitive foods in schools*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/CompetitiveFoods/state_policies_2002.htm>
- *Nutrition Integrity in Schools*, (forthcoming), National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity
- *School Foods Tool Kit*, Center for Science in the Public Interest, <www.cspinet.org/schoolfood/>
- *Foods Sold in Competition with USDA School Meal Programs* (a report to Congress), U.S. Department of Agriculture, <www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/Foods_Sold_in_Competition_with_USDA_School_Meal_Programs.pdf>
- *FAQ on School Pouring Rights Contracts*, American Dental Association, <http://www.ada.org/public/topics/softdrink_faq.asp>

Fruit and Vegetable Promotion in Schools

- *Fruits and Vegetables Galore: Helping Kids Eat More*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/fv_galore.html>
- *School Foodservice Guide: Successful Implementation Models for Increased Fruit and Vegetable Consumption*, Produce for Better Health Foundation. Order on-line for \$29.95 at <www.shop5aday.com/acatalog/School_Food_Service_Guide.html>.
- *School Foodservice Guide: Promotions, Activities, and Resources to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption*, Produce for Better Health Foundation. Order on-line for \$9.95 at <www.shop5aday.com/acatalog/School_Food_Service_Guide.html>

- National Farm-to-School Program website, hosted by the Center for Food and Justice, <www.farmentoschool.org>
- Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program Resource Center, hosted by United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, <<http://www.uffva.org/fvpilotprogram.htm>>
- Produce for Better Health Foundation website has downloadable fruit and vegetable curricula, research, activity sheets, and more at <www.5aday.org>

Fundraising Activities

- *Creative Financing and Fun Fundraising*, Shasta County Public Health, <www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/PublicHealth/CommunityHealth/projclean/fundraiser1.pdf>
- *Guide to Healthy School Fundraising*, Action for Healthy Kids of Alabama, <www.actionforhealthykids.org/AFHK/team_center/team_resources/AL/N&PA%2031%20-%20Fundraising.pdf>

Snacks

- *Healthy School Snacks*, (forthcoming), Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Materials to Assist After-school and Summer Programs and Homeless Shelters in Using the Child Nutrition Programs (website), Food Research and Action Center, <www.frac.org/html/building_blocks/afterschsummertoc.html>

Rewards

- *Constructive Classroom Rewards*, Center for Science in the Public Interest, <www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/constructive_rewards.pdf>
- *Alternatives to Using Food as a Reward*, Michigan State University Extension, <www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/foodrewards.pdf>
- *Prohibition against Denying Meals and Milk to Children as a Disciplinary Action*, U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service [Link to PDF]

Celebrations

- *Guide to Healthy School Parties*, Action for Healthy Kids of Alabama, <www.actionforhealthykids.org/AFHK/team_center/team_resources/AL/N&PA%2032%20-%20parties.pdf>
- *Classroom Party Ideas*, University of California Cooperative Extension Ventura County and California Children's 5 A Day Power Play! Campaign, <<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/filelibrary/2372/15801.pdf>>

Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing: Health Education

- *National Health Education Standards*, American Association for Health Education, <http://www.aahperd.org/aahe/pdf_files/standards.pdf>

Nutrition Education and Promotion

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Team Nutrition website (lists nutrition education curricula and links to them), <www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Educators/index.htm>
- *The Power of Choice: Helping Youth Make Healthy Eating and Fitness*

Decisions, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service,
<www.fns.usda.gov/tn/resources/power_of_choice.html>

• *Nutrition Education Resources and Programs Designed for Adolescents*,
compiled by the American Dietetic Association,
<www.eatright.org/Public/index_19218.cfm>