

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS**8200****Local School Wellness**

It is the goal of the American Heritage Charter School to strive to make a significant contribution to the general well being, mental and physical capacity, and learning ability of each student and afford them the opportunity to fully participate in the education process. The American Heritage Charter School promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. The Charter School supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. By facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity, our school contributes to the basic health status of children. Improved health optimizes student performance potential and ensures that no child is left behind.

Healthy eating is demonstrably linked to reduced morbidity and risk of mortality from many chronic diseases.

The Board directs the Head Administrator to inform and update the public, including parents, students, and others in the community, about the content and implementation of the wellness policy. Such information may be provided on the Charter School website, through dissemination of student handbooks, or in any other manner the Head Administrator may deem appropriate.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy the school day is defined as 8:00 am to 3:30 pm on any instructional school day.

Goals for Wellness Promotion

The Charter School shall review and consider evidence-based approaches in establishing goals for school based activities to promote student wellness. This may include review of the “Smarter Lunchroom” tools and strategies.

To ensure the health and well being of all students, it is the policy of the Charter School to:

1. Ensure that foods sold at school during the school day meet or exceed the nutritional standards required by the USDA’s National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations. Exceptions can be made for infrequent food sales and fundraisers that occur no more than the number of times determined appropriate by the Idaho State Department of Education during the school year and are not held during school meal times. Fundraisers will be tracked at each school site by a designee of the Head Administrator in charge of compliance at that site;
2. Ensure that non-compliant and non-exempt fundraising food sales will not occur on school grounds during the school day. The Charter School operates under United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program regulations of the National School Lunch Program, National School Breakfast Program, and the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations. These regulations apply to food sold during the school day in school stores, vending machines, and other venues. (Note: There are many healthy fundraising options available to schools including selling books, fresh produce, school spirit merchandise, or other non-food items during the school day. Fundraising activities involving the sale of food consumed outside of school, such as frozen pizza sales, are exempt from the nutrition standards.);
3. Ensure that celebrations that involve food during the school day be limited to no more than one party per class per month and that each party include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for Smart Snacks in Schools. The Charter School will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.
4. The Schools will set nutrition guidelines for foods served at school other than those that are sold. The Smart Snacks in Schools regulations only affect foods that are sold on school grounds during the school day. Time honored traditions like treats for birthdays, or foods at an afterschool sporting event, are not subject to those standards.];

The Charter School shall also take measures to promote nutrition and physical activity, engage in nutrition education, and conduct wellness activities. For this purpose, the Charter School may:

5. Ensure that the Charter School become certified as a Healthier US Schools Challenge schools and/or enroll as a Team Nutrition schools;
6. Host at least one health fair each year;
7. Draft and regularly distribute a wellness newsletter for students and parents;
8. Review Smarter Lunchroom Movement best practices and evaluate each school’s ability to implement

them;

9. Promote healthy eating patterns through classroom nutrition education coordinated with the comprehensive health education program including education, health, and food services;
10. Provide appropriate physical education per week to elementary students and to middle school students;
11. Offer a recognition or reward program for students who exhibit healthy behaviors.
12. Start a walking or physical activity club at each school;
13. Offer after school physical activity programs;
14. Ensure students have access to hand-washing facilities prior to meals;
15. Annually evaluate the marketing and promotion of the school meal program;
16. Share school meal nutrition information with students and families;
17. Offer students taste-testing or menu planning opportunities;
18. Participate in Farm to School activities and/or have a school garden;
19. Advertise and promote nutritious foods and beverages on school grounds;
20. Offer nutritious foods and beverages at lower prices than other foods and beverages;
21. Offer fruits or non-fried vegetables everywhere foods are sold;
22. Use student feedback to improve the quality of the school meal programs;
23. Offer a staff wellness program;
24. Provide Charter School staff with adequate pre-service and ongoing in-service training that focuses on program administration, nutrition, physical activity, safety, the importance of modeling healthy behaviors, and strategies for behavioral change; and
25. Participate in community partnerships to support wellness programs, projects, events, or activities.

Nutrition Standards

To promote student health and reduce childhood obesity, the Charter School shall comply with the nutrition standards established by the USDA with respect to all food that is available on school grounds during the school day.

Community Participation

The Charter School shall invite parents, students, representative food service staff of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the Board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review of this policy.

The Head Administrator shall annually make available to the public the content of the policy and an assessment of the implementation of this policy including:

1. The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the Charter School are in compliance with the wellness policy;
2. The extent to which the Charter School's wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies; and
3. A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.

Methods of providing this information to the public may include developing or disseminating printed or electronic materials to families of school children and other members of the school community at the beginning of the school year, or posting the local wellness policies and an assessment of their implementation on the Charter School or school website. The assessment of the implementation of the policy shall be conducted at least once every three years.

Record Retention

The Charter School shall retain the following records relating to the wellness policy:

1. The written local school wellness policy;
2. Documentation demonstrating the community was involved in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the wellness policy;
3. Documentation of the assessment of the wellness policy; and
4. Documentation to demonstrate the public was notified annually as required by this policy.

Monitoring Compliance

The Head Administrator shall designate one or more Charter School officials or school officials to ensure that each school complies with this policy.

Cross-Reference:

2310	Nutrition Education
2315	Physical Activity Opportunities and Education
8230	Nutrition Standards

Legal Reference:

Sec. 204, Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004
42 USC § 1758b, Section 204 Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010
42 USC § 1771 et seq. Child Nutrition Act of 1966
42 USC § 1751 et seq. National School Lunch Act
7 CFR Part 210 Nutrition School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs: Final Rule
7 CFR § 210.30 Local School Wellness Policy
Smart Snacks in School Regulations by the United States Department of Agriculture

Other References:

Idaho Wellness Policy Progress Report, Idaho State Department of Education
Implementation and Monitoring Plan, Idaho State Department of Education
Wellness Policy Guidelines—Elements of Implementation for Final Rule, Idaho State Department of Education <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/sch-mp/snacks.html>

Policy History:

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