



WELLNESS POLICY FOR:

The Language & Literacy Academy for Learning

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of all students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, supporting the development of good eating habits and promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning is committed to creating school environments that promote and protect the overall well-being of all students and staff. The guidelines listed below encourage a comprehensive wellness approach that is sensitive to both individual and community needs.

1. School Wellness Policy Leadership

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will assemble a representative wellness committee that will meet bi-annually to monitor and set goals for the development and implementation of its local school wellness policy. As required by *K-20 Education Code 1003.453* the policy shall be reviewed annually and an updated copy shall be sent to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services when a change or revision is made.

- The Principal shall ensure overall compliance with the local school wellness policy.
- Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators and the public shall be permitted to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the local school wellness policy.
- The Principal will be responsible for:
- inviting community business people, knowledgeable organic farming specialists, speech and language pathologists, dietitian, and other health and physical activity professionals to participate in the community wellness committee.
- making available to the public and school community a list of names and position titles (or relationship to the school) of individuals who are a part of the wellness committee; as well as the name, position title, and school-based contact information of the lead individual(s) or coordinator (s) for the Principal at The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning.

School level

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will establish an ongoing Healthy School Team that will meet bi-annually, at the start of the school year and at least one other time, to ensure compliance and to facilitate the implementation of The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning's wellness policy.

- The school principal and local school staff shall have the responsibility to comply with federal and state regulations as they relate to The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning’s wellness policy.
- The Principal will be responsible for establishing the Healthy School Team that will ensure compliance with the policy.
- The Healthy School Team should include, but not be limited to, the following stakeholders: parents, students, school food service program representatives, school administrators, school health professionals, physical education teachers and the general public.
- The Healthy School Team is responsible for:
 - Ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations for competitive food and beverage items sold on the school campus (7 CFR 210.11 and FAC 5P-1.003);
 - Maintaining a school calendar identifying the dates if exempted competitive food fundraisers will occur in accordance with the frequency specified in paragraph (c) of FAC 5P-1.003;
 - And reporting its school’s compliance of the aforementioned regulations to the Principal, the person responsible for ensuring overall compliance with The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning wellness policy.

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in establishing goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity and other school based activities that promote student wellness to include, at a minimum, a review of Smarter Lunchroom tools and techniques.

1. Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion can positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by creating food environments that encourage healthy choices and encourage participation in the school meal programs.

- The school environment, including the cafeteria and classroom, shall provide clear and consistent messages that promote and reinforce healthy eating.
- Students will have access to useful nutrition information. Posters, worksheets and brochures will be available in classrooms and throughout each school’s campus. Healthy nutritional posters will be displayed in the cafeteria serving area and in the classrooms.
- Schools will provide parents with healthy snack ideas, lists of foods for healthy celebrations and opportunities for physical activity before, during, within the school-wide Special Olympics program.
- Organizations operating concessions at school functions will promote healthy food choices at a lower profit margin to encourage student selection. An afternoon snack concession will be offered to Middle, High School and staff, operated by students under the supervision of a teacher, that promotes healthy snack choices.

1. Nutrition Education

Academic performance and quality of life issues are affected by the choice and availability of nutritious foods in our schools. Healthy foods support student physical growth, brain development, resistance to disease, emotional stability and ability to learn.

- The nutrition benchmarks included in Florida’s Physical Education Standards shall be taught as part of the structured and systematic unit of instruction during physical education classes and will be integrated into other subject areas (e.g., math, science) where there is a natural fit.
- Students receive nutrition education that is interactive and teaches skills they need to adopt healthy eating behaviors. Classroom lectures, activities and student participation are provided in nutrition and health classes.
- Students will understand how food reaches the table and the implications that has for their health and future. Staff shall integrate hands-on experiences such as working in a garden, cooking activities and enrichment activities such as farmer’s market tours and visits to community gardens with the core curriculum. Students will receive homework supporting these activities to ensure comprehension. Nutritional goals and the concept of food to cooking to table will be incorporated into Life Science classes, elementary STEAM classes and everyday learning.
- In the future, it is the goal to have a school garden or to work with a local community garden to facilitate nutrition education to be incorporated within the larger school community. The future plan is for the nutrition education program to work with the school meal program to develop school gardens and use the cafeteria as a learning lab. Students will harvest vegetables from the school garden and work with the cafeteria staff to create wholesome snacks.
- Nutrition education will teach skills that are behavior-focused. Students will be taught about calorie balance, energy expenditure and how to read and interpret nutrition facts labels. Nutrition educational resources shall be obtained from the healthymeals.fns.usda.gov website. This website provides resources for all ages, topics, while providing ideas for stakeholder involvement (students, staff, parents).
- 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. Preparation and professional development activities will provide basic knowledge of nutrition combined with skill practice in program-specific activities and instructional techniques and strategies designed to promote healthy eating habits. Active involvement in preparing and delivering nutritional education to the staff will be speech/language pathologists (provide information for children with swallowing difficulties or food texture sensitivities, occupational therapists, science teachers, and other educational professionals with proven expertise in nutritional knowledge as evidenced by specific trainings they have attended).

1. Physical Activity

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning shall ensure that physical activity is an essential element of each school’s instructional program. The program shall provide the opportunity for all students to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to participate in a lifetime of physical activity.

- Students in grades K-5 shall receive 150 minutes per week of instructionally relevant physical education. For middle school physical education in grades 6-8, all students shall receive a minimum of one semester of physical education in each of the three years. In grades 9-12, students receive a minimum of one credit of physical education in senior high school as required. One semester must be personal fitness while the second semester may be any physical education course offered by The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning with the approved state course codes (Florida State Standards).

- All elementary school students will have at least 20 minutes of daily recess. Each school will provide space, equipment and an environment conducive to safe and enjoyable play.
- Our students will have the opportunity to be involved in physical activity through physical education programs, and through our comprehensive Special Olympics Program that offers a wide variety of sport selections. Students will be encouraged to participate in the Special Olympics Program as well as other community-offered fitness and athletic programs.
- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will offer the opportunity for a personal fitness after school hours provided by physical fitness employees. Staff will be encouraged to participate in 30-210 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (e.g., brisk walking, jogging, yoga) every week. Staff will be informed of the opportunity to participate in physical activity in afterschool programs and community events.
- Regular classroom teachers will be encouraged to provide “brain breaks” with short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.
- Twice daily, students and staff will be given the opportunity to participate in relaxation and meditation moments for 10-15 minutes to provide mind and body opportunities to “reset” in the am and at lunch time.

1. Other School-Based Activities

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting. These initiatives will include nutrition, physical activity, meditation, and other wellness components so that all efforts work towards the same set of goals and objectives used to promote student wellbeing, optimal development and strong educational outcomes. Any students needing physical or occupational therapy will receive those services weekly in addition to the schools structured and unstructured physical activity opportunities.

General Guidelines

- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning shall consider the components of the Centers for Disease Control’s Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model in establishing other school-based activities that promote wellness.
- The goals outlined by the wellness policy will be considered in planning all school-based activities (such as school events, field trips, dances and assemblies).
- After-school programs will encourage healthy snacking and physical activity.
- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning shall actively develop and support the engagement of students, families and staff in community health-enhancing activities and events at the school or throughout the community.
- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning shall be in compliance with drug, alcohol and tobacco-free policies. Annually, The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will conduct anti drug, alcohol, and tobacco activities during the Red Ribbon Week in October and anti-bullying, embracing our differences, and being kind activities throughout the year.

Eating Environment

- Students will be provided an adequate amount of time to consume their meal with a minimum of 20 minutes after receiving their food from the line.
- Each school will provide nutritious, fresh, locally grown food that reflects Florida’s bountiful harvest.

- Convenient access to facilities for hand washing and oral hygiene will be available during meal periods.

HealthierUS School Challenge

- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will be consider joining the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Team Nutrition program and submit an application to be recognized as a HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSSC: SL) school.

Recycling

- Each school shall maximize the reduction of waste by recycling, reusing, composting and purchasing recycled products.

Employee Wellness

- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning’s wellness committee will have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and distributes wellness resources and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff.
- All staff will be provided with opportunities to participate in physical activities and healthy eating programs that are accessible and free or low-cost.

Health Services

- A coordinated program of accessible health services shall be provided to students and staff and shall include, but not be limited to, violence prevention (anti bullying and be kind week), school safety, communicable disease prevention (hand washing campaign), providing daily meditation to provide our staff and students with breathing techniques and visualization activities that will assist them when anxious or angry, community health referrals, free staff flu immunizations, monthly parenting skills and first aid/CPR training for all therapists and interested staff.

Behavior Management

- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning is a school for children with special needs. Some of our students exhibit severe behavior challenges requiring a specially designed Behavior Management Plan based upon a Functional Behavioral Assessment designed by a Behavioral Specialist. Depending upon the child’s preferred reinforcer, primary reinforcers are frequently used with our students out of necessity. Healthy primary reinforcers will be tried with these students but the behavior team will default to the strongest reinforcer necessary to modify the child’s SEVERE behavior disorder. The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning, when using food as a reinforcer, will use the smallest amount and healthiest amount that is effective in shaping the student’s behavior.
- Teachers and other school personnel will not deny or require physical activity as a means of punishment.

1. Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Available During the School Day

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning shall operate and provide food service in accordance with USDA’s National School Lunch Program (NSLP) standards and applicable laws and regulations of the state of Florida. The guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by USDA.

General Guidelines

- All reimbursable meals will meet nutrition standards mandated by USDA, as well as any additional state nutrition standards that go beyond USDA requirements.
- School meals will include a variety of nutrient-dense foods, including whole grains and fiber-rich fruits and vegetables, while accommodating special dietary needs and ethnic and cultural food preferences.
- To the maximum extent possible, all schools in The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will participate in available federal school meal programs, including the SBP, NSLP, ASSP, AMP, and SFSP.
- Free, potable water will be made available to all children during each meal service.

Competitive Foods

- All foods and beverages sold on the school campus to students outside of reimbursable school meals are considered “competitive foods,” and must comply with the nutrition standards for competitive food as defined and required in 7 CFR 210.11.
 - *School campus means, for the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.*
 - *School day means, for the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, the period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.*
- Competitive foods include items sold a la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores, snack bars and for in-school fundraisers.
- Unless being sold by The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning’s food service program, it is impermissible for any competitive food item sold to students during the school day to consist of ready-to-eat combination foods of meat or meat alternate and grain products, as defined in 7 CFR 210.10 and 210.11. (FAC 5P-1.003)
- To be allowable, all competitive food items sold to students must meet general nutrition requirements and nutrient standards.

General nutrition requirements for competitive foods:

- Be a grain product that contains 50 percent or more whole grains by weight or have a whole grain as the first ingredient; or
- Have as the first ingredient one of the non-grain major food groups: fruits, vegetables, dairy or protein foods (meat, beans, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts, seeds, etc.); or
- Be a combination food that contains 1/4 cup of fruit and/or vegetable.
- If water is the first ingredient, the second ingredient must be one of the above.

Nutrient standards for competitive foods:

Nutrient	Snack Items and Side Dishes	Entrée Items
----------	-----------------------------	--------------

Standards	(including any added accompaniments)	(including any added accompaniments)
Calories	200 calories or less	350 calories or less
Sodium Limits	200 mg or less	480 mg or less
Total Fat Limits	35% or less of total calories	35% or less of total calories
Saturated fat	Less than 10% of total calories	Less than 10% of total calories
Trans fat	0 g of trans fat as served (less than or equal to 0.5 g per portion)	0 g of trans fat as served (less than or equal to 0.5 g per portion)
Sugar	35% of weight from total sugar as served or less	35% of weight from total sugar as served or less

Exemptions:

- Any entrée item offered as part of the breakfast or lunch program is exempt if it is served as a competitive food on the day of service or the day after service in the breakfast or lunch program.
- Fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables with no added ingredients, except water.
- Canned fruits with no added ingredients except water, which are packed in 100 percent juice, extra light syrup or light syrup.
- Low sodium/No salt added canned vegetables with no added fats.
- Reduced fat cheese, nuts, seeds and nut/seed butters, as well as seafood and whole eggs with no added fat are exempt from the total fat and saturated fat standards.

**Refer to 7 CFR 210.11 competitive food service standards for additional exemptions.*

Nutrition standards for beverages:

Portion sizes listed are the maximum that can be offered.

Beverages	Elementary	Middle	High
Plain water	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Unflavored low-fat milk	8 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.
Unflavored or flavored fat-free milk	8 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.
100% fruit or vegetable juice	8 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.
100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water but no added sweeteners	8 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.	12 fl. oz.

Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain 5 calories or less per 8 fl. oz., or 10 calories or less per 20 fl. oz.	Not allowed	Not allowed	20 fl. oz.
Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain 40 calorie or less per 8 fl. oz. or 60 calories or less per 12 fl. oz.)	Not allowed	Not allowed	1. fl. oz.

For elementary and middle school students: foods and beverages must be caffeine-free with the exception of trace amounts of naturally occurring caffeine substances. Food and beverages for high school students may contain caffeine.

Standards for food and beverages available during the school day that are not sold to students:

- The school will provide parents and teachers a list of ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards and fundraising activities.
- Class parties or celebrations shall be held after the lunch period and only foods that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards can be served.
- Schools will limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month.

Fundraising

- Fundraising efforts will be supportive of healthy eating by complying with all applicable regulations and nutrition standards for competitive foods while also emphasizing the sale of non-food items.
- No fundraisers that include the sale of food items will occur until thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the last designated meal service period.
- The school board is permitted to grant a special exemption from the standards for competitive foods as specified above for the purpose of conducting infrequent school-sponsored fundraisers, not to exceed the following maximum number of school days per school campus each school year:

School Type	Maximum Number of School Days to Conduct Exempted Fundraisers
Elementary Schools	5 days
Middle School/Junior High Schools	10 days
Senior High Schools	15 days
Combination Schools	10 days

- Each school’s Healthy School Team will maintain a school calendar identifying the dates when exempted competitive food fundraisers will occur. (FAC 5P-1.003)

1. Policy for Food and Beverage Marketing

School-based marketing will be consistent with policies for nutrition education and health promotion. As such, the following guidelines apply:

- Schools will only be allowed to market and advertise those foods and beverages that meet or exceed USDA's Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- Marketing activities that promote healthful behaviors are encouraged. Examples may include: vending machine covers promoting water, pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines, sales of fruit for fundraisers and coupons for discounted gym memberships.
- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning nutrition department's replacement and purchasing decisions will reflect the marketing guidelines mentioned above.

1. Evaluation and Measurement of the Implementation of the Wellness Policy

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning's wellness committee will update and make modifications to the wellness policy based on the results of the annual review and triennial assessments and/or as local priorities change, community needs change, wellness goals are met, new health information and technology emerges and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed as indicated at least every three years following the triennial assessment.

Triennial Progress Assessments

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will conduct an assessment of the local school wellness policy to measure wellness policy compliance **at least once every three years**. This assessment will measure the implementation of the local school wellness policy, and include:

- The extent to which The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning is in compliance with the local school wellness policy;
- The extent to which the local school wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the local school wellness policy.
- The Principal will be responsible for ensuring the annual reporting of the school wellness policy results. This report may be assigned to an appropriate staff member.

1. Informing the Public

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will ensure that the wellness policy and most recent triennial assessment are available to the public at all times by posting it on the school's website. The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will also actively notify households on an annual basis about any updates made to the wellness policy and the availability of the triennial assessment results, as well as provide information to the community about the school nutrition environment.

- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will ensure the most updated version of the wellness policy and triennial assessments are always available on the school website for the public to view.
- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will present wellness policy updates, as applicable, during meetings with the Parent Teacher Association/Organization, school board, health and wellness committee and other interested groups or stakeholders.

- Wellness updates will be provided to students, parents and staff, as applicable, in the form of handouts, The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning website, articles and each school's newsletter, to ensure that the community is informed and that public input is encouraged.
- Each school will provide all parents with a complete copy of the local school wellness policy at the beginning of the school year.

1. Community Involvement

The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will actively communicate ways in which parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators and the general public can participate in the development, implementation and annual review of the local school wellness policy through a variety of means, including:

- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will consider student needs in planning for a healthy nutrition environment. Students will be asked for input and feedback through the use of surveys and attention will be given to their comments.
- The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on The Language and Literacy Academy for Learning's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of any updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy.
- At the final public school board meeting of each year, the local school wellness policy will be discussed and all stakeholders will be asked to provide feedback on the policy. All comments and recommendations will be reviewed and considered.

Record Keeping

Records to document compliance with the requirements of the local school wellness policy will include, but is not limited to the following:

- The written local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public as consistent with the section on informing and updating the public; and
- Documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy.