

School Wellness Policy

Earlimart School District

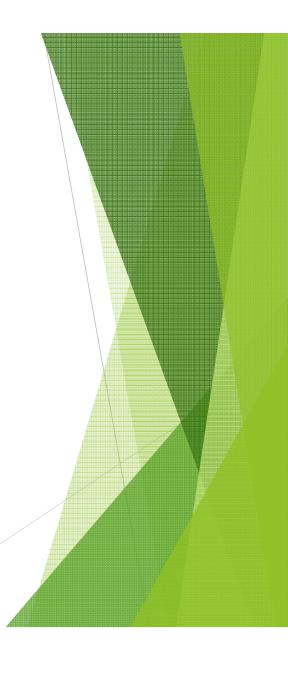
#### Why do we need a Wellness Policy?

#### **Local School Wellness Policy**

Each local educational agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program or other federal Child Nutrition programs is required by federal law to establish a local school wellness policy for all schools under its jurisdiction.

#### Overview of Requirements

- As of School Year 2006-2007, all districts were required to establish a local school wellness policy.
- The final rule requires LEAs to begin developing a revised local school wellness policy during School Year 2016-2017. LEAs must fully comply with the requirements of the final rule by June 30, 2017. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, review, and update of the local wellness policy.
  - Identifying wellness policy leadership of one or more LEA and/or school official(s) who have the authority and responsibility to ensure each school complies with the policy.
  - Informing and updating the public (including parents, students, and others in the community)
    about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy.
  - Ensuring the wellness policy includes all of the required components:
    - Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other schoolbased activities that promote student wellness. LEAs are required to review and consider evidence-based strategies in determining these goals.
    - Nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available or for sale on the school campus during the school day that are consistent with Federal regulations for:
      - School meal nutrition standards, and
      - Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
    - Policies for other foods and beverages available on the school campus during the school day (e.g., in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
    - Policies for food and beverage marketing that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
    - Description of public involvement, public updates, policy leadership, and evaluation plan.



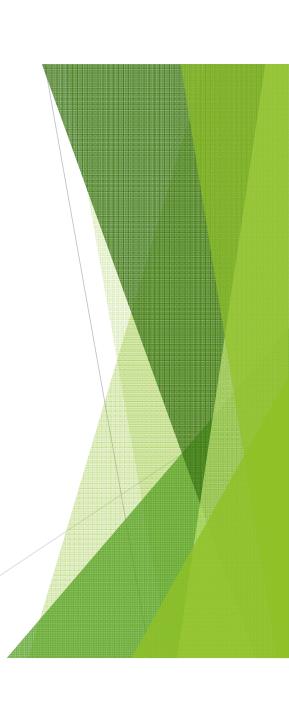
#### Our New Template

This "Basic" district-level wellness policy template meets the minimum Federal standards for local school wellness policy implementation under the final rule of the Healthy. Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Healthy Schools Program Bronze-level award criteria, and minimum best practice standards accepted in the education and public health fields. Where appropriate, the template includes optional policy language school districts can use to establish a stronger policy that meets the Healthy Schools Program Silver or Gold award levels. School districts should choose policy language that meets their current needs and also supports growth over time] If you are using this tool to compare your policy against, you should include the language in italics as the strongest examples for comparison.

### OPTIONAL LANGUAGE

1. Preamble

2. Nutrition



### Preamble Pg. 2

This policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The board supports the use of health-promoting marketing strategies for our meal programs. School food service shall commit to incorporating Smarter Lunchrooms Movement tools and strategies, which are evidence-based, simple, low-cost changes that are shown to improve student participation in the school meal program while encouraging consumption of whole grains, milk, fruits, vegetables and legumes, and decreasing plate waste. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

<u>Follow-up</u>: It was agreed by the present committee to KEEP the language in red.

## Preamble Pg. 3

#### [Recommended Optional language includes:

- The District will coordinate the wellness policy with other aspects of school management, including the District's School Improvement Plan, when appropriate.
- NOTE: Will also include any relevant data or statistics from state or local sources supporting the need for establishing and achieving the goals in this policy.]

**Follow-up**: It was agreed by the present committee members to KEEP FOR NOW but do further research on more items that can be included to support the language, such as the School Fitness Program.

### Competitive Foods and Beverages Pg. 9

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are <u>sold</u> to students on the school campus during the school day\* [and *ideally, the extended school day\**] will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards [or, if the state policy is stronger, "will meet or exceed state nutrition standards"]. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, à la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and snack or food carts.

**Follow-up**: It was agreed by the present committee members to research the definitions of "school day" and "extended school day." It was also agreed to KEEP the language in blue since our district is already following state standards.

## Fundraising Pg. 10

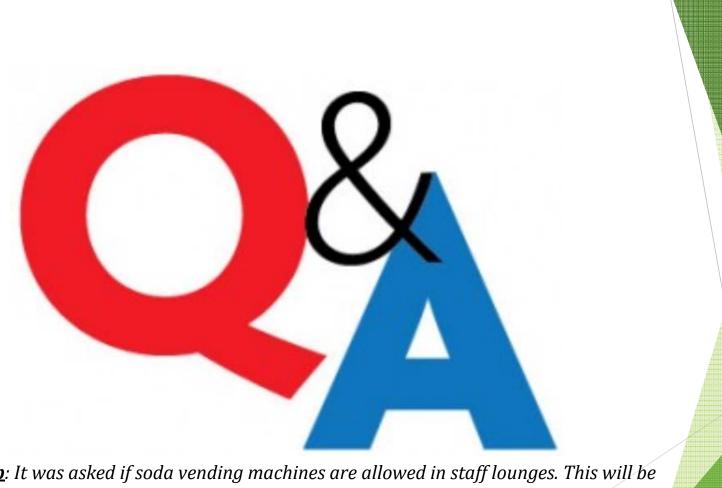
- Schools are encouraged to use only non-food fundraisers, and encourage those promoting physical activity (such as walk-a-thons, Jump Rope for Heart, fun runs, etc.).
- Fundraising during <u>and outside</u> school hours will sell only non-food items or foods and beverages <u>that meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards</u>. These fundraisers may include but are not limited to, donation nights at restaurants, cookie dough, candy and pizza sales, market days, etc. (Meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria)]

**Follow-up**: It was agreed by the present committee members that fundraising in our district needed more flexibility. The following items were proposed: 1. agree on Smart Snack Exemption Limit for our district, 2. no food or beverage sales during school hours, 3. allow approved food & beverage sale forms during school hours, 4. allow distribution of approved food & beverage sale items during school hours, and 5. strictly monitor that approved food & beverage sale items are not consumed during school hours. It was brought up that it is difficult to keep track of cash flow if any sales are allowed during school hours, such as student stores.

# Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools Pg. 12

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus\* during the school day\* will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards [or, if stronger, "state nutrition standards"], such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.

<u>Follow-up</u>: It was agreed by the present committee members to KEEP the language since our district is already following state standards.



**Follow-up**: It was asked if soda vending machines are allowed in staff lounges. This will be researched. If it is found to be allowed, it was agreed that soda exposure should be strictly limited to students and that sodas would not be allowed to be given to students for any reason.



Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm

