

MSAD #70 STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

MSAD #70 and the school board recognize that student wellness and good nutrition are related to students' physical and psychological well-being and their readiness to learn. MSAD #70 and the school board is committed to providing a school environment that supports student wellness, healthy food choices, nutrition education, and regular physical activity. MSAD #70 and the school board believes that students who learn and practice healthy lifestyles in their formative years may be more likely to be conscious of the importance of good nutrition and exercise as adults, practice healthy habits, and reduce their risk of obesity, and other chronic diseases/health issues.

Nutrition Standards

MSAD #70 will ensure that meals provided by its Food Services Program meet or exceed the nutrition standards established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations. All foods and beverages sold or served in school will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

Assurance

This policy serves as assurance¹ that MSAD #70 guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act.

Nutrition Education

Nutrition education will be integrated into the instructional program through the health education program and/or the curriculum as aligned with the content standards of Maine's system of Learning Results. Nutrition education should focus on skills students need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors. Students should receive consistent nutrition messages throughout the schools, including classrooms, cafeteria, and school-home communications.

Physical Activity

MSAD #70 will strive to provide all students developmentally appropriate opportunities for physical activity through physical education classes, recess periods for elementary school students, and extracurricular activities (clubs, intramural and interscholastic athletics). School programs are intended to build and maintain physical fitness and to promote healthy lifestyles. MSAD #70 will encourage parents to support their children's participation in physical activities, including available before- and after-school programs.

Other School-Based Wellness Activities

MSAD #70, with prior approval of the Superintendent/designee, will implement other appropriate programs that support consistent wellness messages and promote healthy eating and physical activity. MSAD #70 and the school board may approve policy;

¹ See 42 U.S.C. § 1751(a)(2).

regulations or guidelines for refreshments served at parties or celebrations during the school day or for food as rewards, or may delegate the responsibility for such regulations or guidelines to administrators at the district or school level.

MSAD #70 will encourage staff to learn and engage in healthy lifestyle practices.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Superintendent/designee shall have authority and responsibility for the implementation of the wellness policy, for monitoring efforts to meet the intent of this policy, and for reporting to the School Board on an annual basis.

Monitoring may include surveys or solicitation of input from students, parents, staff, and school administrators.

Reports may include, but are not limited to:

- A. The status of the school environment in regard to student wellness issues
- B. Evaluation of the school food services program and compliance with nutrition guidelines
- C. Summary of wellness programs and activities in the MSAD #70
- D. Feedback from students, parents, staff, school administrators and wellness committee
- E. Recommendations for policy, program or curriculum revisions

MSAD #70 will inform and update the public on the content and implementation of the wellness policy including progress made in attaining the goals of the policy at School Board Meetings and through the MSAD #70 website.

Every three years, MSAD #70 will complete an assessment of their wellness policy including progress towards policy goals.

Appointment and Role of the Wellness Committee

MSAD #70 and the school board shall appoint a district-wide Wellness Committee comprised of at least one of each of the following:

- A. Board Member(s);
- B. School Administrator(s);
- C. Food Services Director/designee;
- D. Student Representative;
- E. Parent Representative;
- F. Community Representative;
- G. School Health Professional(s);
- H. Physical Education Teacher(s)

The Wellness Committee may also include:

- A. Teacher(s);
- B. Guidance Counselor;

- C. Social Worker;
- D. Community Organization or agency representative;
- E. Other Staff, as designated by MSAD #70/School Board

The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee in regard to student wellness issues and will be responsible for making recommendations related to the wellness policy, wellness goals, administrative or school regulations and practices, or raising awareness of student health issues.

With the prior approval of the Superintendent/designee, the Wellness Committee may survey parents, students and the community and/or conduct focus groups or community forums.

The Wellness Committee will keep documentation of meetings held and shall provide periodic reports to the Superintendent/designee and, as requested, to the School Board.

Wellness Goals

MSAD #70 and the school board has identified the following goals associated with student wellness:

Goals for Nutrition Promotion/Education

MSAD # 70 will provide nutrition education that focuses on the skills students need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors.

MSAD # 70's nutrition education will be provided in a sequential, comprehensive health education program aligned with the content standards of the Maine system of Learning Results.

Nutrition education will be integrated into other subjects as appropriate to complement, not replace, the health education program.

MSAD # 70 will provide foods that meet or exceed the federal nutrition standards, adequate time for students to obtain food and eat, lunch scheduled at appropriate hours of the day (OR: as close to the middle of the school day as possible), adequate space to eat, and a clean and safe meal environment.

Consistent nutrition messages will be disseminated throughout the school unit in the classroom, the cafeteria, and school-home communications.

Administrators and staff will be encouraged to model nutritious food choices and eating habits by offering a healthy food and drink option during classroom events or activities.

Appropriate professional development will be provided for food services staff.

Goals for Physical Activity

The physical education program will provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be physically fit and take part in healthful physical activity on a regular basis.

Students will develop motor skills and apply them to enhance their coordination and physical performance.

Students will demonstrate responsible personal and social behaviors in physical activity settings; showing a knowledge of being a good team member and practicing good sportsmanship.

The physical education curriculum will be aligned with the content standards of the Maine system of Learning Results.

Physical education classes will keep all students involved in purposeful activity for a majority of the class period; with adequate time for student to change clothing and have personal hygiene time prior to returning to class.

Physical education classes will provide opportunity to learn for students of all abilities.

MSAD # 70 will provide a physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable physical activity and fosters the development of a positive attitude toward health and fitness.

MSAD # 70 will provide facilities adequate to implement the physical education curriculum for the number of students served.

MSAD # 70 will promote efforts to provide opportunities for students to engage in age-appropriate activities on most days of the week in both school and community settings.

MSAD #70 will provide opportunities for physical activity through a variety of before-and/or after-school programs including, but not limited to, intramural sports, interscholastic athletics and physical activity clubs.

Appropriate professional development will be provided for physical education staff and other staff involved in the delivery of such programs.

Goals for Other School-Based Activities/Nutrition Guidelines

Goals of the wellness policy will be considered when planning school or classroom parties, celebrations or events.

Parents will be encouraged to provide nutritionally sound snacks from home and food for classroom parties or events.

MSAD #70 will encourage maximum participation in school meal programs.

MSAD #70 will encourage parents and students to take advantage of developmentally appropriate community-based after-school programs that emphasize physical activity.

MSAD #70 will encourage parents to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

As feasible, school physical activity facilities will be made available after school hours for student, parent and community use to encourage participation in physical activity.

School administrators, staff, parents, students and community members will be encouraged to serve as role models in practicing healthy eating and being physically active, both in the school environment and at home.

Student organizations will be encouraged to engage in fundraising projects that are supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.

School-based marketing of foods and beverages, such as through advertisements in school publications, school buildings, athletic fields, and other areas accessible to students should support the goals of the wellness policy.

MSAD #70 will encourage cooperation with agencies and community organizations to support programs that contribute to good nutrition and physical activity.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. § 1751
PL 111-296, Section 204

Adopted: August 2006,

Revised: March 9, 2009; July 10, 2017