

Oelrichs School District Health and Wellness Policies

(Approved July 15, 2024)

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, recent studies have shown 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, recent studies have shown 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 historically 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, stakeholder participation is essential to the development and implementation of successful school health and wellness policies;

Thus, the Oelrichs School District is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the Oelrichs School District that:

- The District will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing District-wide 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 in the District 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 the Oelrichs School District will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program, and Child and Adult Care Food 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.

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;¹
- serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk² and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (to be defined by USDA); and
- ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain.^{3,3}

¹ To the extent possible, schools will offer at least one non-fried vegetable and two fruit options each day and will offer five different fruits and five different vegetables over the course of a week. Schools are encouraged to source fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers when practicable.

² As recommended by the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005*.

The District will engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys, in selecting foods served through the school meal programs in order to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices. In addition, schools should share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. Such information could be made available on menus, a website, on cafeteria menu boards, placards, or other District sponsored resources or materials.

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:

- The District will, to the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program;
- The District will, to the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation;
- Schools that serve breakfast to students will notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program. Serving times will typically be held from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.

Free and Reduced-priced Meals. Schools will provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income; and will promote the availability of school meals to all students. The District will continue to make every effort to maintain its Community Eligible Provision (CEP) status.

Meal Times and Scheduling. The District :

- 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 12:30 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 school);
- will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and

³ A whole grain is one labeled as a “whole” grain product or with a whole grain listed as the primary grain ingredient in the ingredient statement. Examples include “whole” wheat flour, cracked wheat, brown rice, and oatmeal.

- 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. Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of its responsibility to operate a food service program, the District will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals.⁴

Sharing of Foods and Beverages. The District will 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, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

Elementary School. The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in the elementary school. Given young children’s limited nutrition knowledge, food in elementary school 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 School. In middle/junior high and high schools, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through 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 water⁵ 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).

⁴ School nutrition staff development programs are available through the USDA, School Nutrition Association, and National Food Service Management Institute.

⁵ Surprisingly, seltzer water may not be sold during meal times in areas of the school where food is sold or eaten because it is considered a “Food of Minimal Nutritional Value” (Appendix B of 7 CFR Part 210).

Foods

- A food item sold individually:
 - will have less than 10% 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;⁶
 - will contain no more than 600 mg of sodium per serving for chips, cereals, crackers, French fries, baked goods, and other snack items; will contain no more than 600 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.

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. The District will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity and will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

⁶ If a food manufacturer fails to provide the *added* sugars content of a food item, use the percentage of weight from *total* sugars (in place of the percentage of weight from *added* sugars), and exempt fruits, vegetables, and dairy foods from this total sugars limit.

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. The District 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.

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion. Oelrichs School District aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students and will 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. Topics will include food variety; reduced sodium and sugar intake; disease prevention, and healthy food preparation.
- 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, ranch and farm visits, and school gardens;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure

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 will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The District will display breakfast and lunch menus to include portion size. If a parent chooses to provide their child with food, the District will 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 wellness standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/ parties, rewards, and fundraising activities. In addition, the District, when requested, will provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community.

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 the website, monthly newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K-12. All students in grades K-12, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive daily physical education for the duration of the school year. All physical education taken for credit will be taught by a certified physical education teacher and will be tied to established State standards. 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 teachers should encourage students to engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity through the use 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, the schools should give students periodic breaks during which time they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School. All elementary, middle, and high schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. The high school, middle school as appropriate, will offer interscholastic sports programs. The District 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. The District will ensure compliance with all Title IX regulations.

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 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 compliance with the District's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from stakeholders within the District. That report will be provided to the school board and also distributed to all parent/teacher organizations, school principals, and District food service personnel.

Policy Review. To help with the initial development of the District's wellness policies, each school in the District will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies.⁷ The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the District level to identify and prioritize needs.

The District Health and Wellness Policy will be reevaluated every three years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the District will review its nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. The District will, as necessary, revise its Health and Wellness policies.

⁷ Useful self-assessment and planning tools include the *School Health Index* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Changing the Scene* from the Team Nutrition Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and *Opportunity to Learn Standards for Elementary, Middle, and High School Physical Education* from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

The District will inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District Board will review its Health and Wellness policies at its annual meeting in July. The District will make the policy available via the District website at <https://oelrichs.k12.sd.us>.

The Oelrichs School District will utilize a multi-tiered approach to assess its current school wellness policy on physical activity and nutrition. The team includes the following: Superintendent; Principal; Head Cook; Business Manager; and PE Teacher. The central goal of the District's wellness policy is to promote and protect our students' health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. This group will make recommendations to the District Board on ways to adjust and improve its Health and Wellness policy which will be disseminated through the District's website, monthly newsletter and other District sponsored mediums.

