

**Policy JG: School Wellness Policy**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 09/01/2006 | **Last Revised Date:** 10/12/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/13/2025

## **SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY**

The Amite County School District School Board affirms its commitment to providing a healthy environment for students and staff. The board directs the superintendent to coordinate the components of the district's wellness policy. The wellness policy shall be developed with the involvement of the school health council. This wellness policy shall be reviewed and approved by the Amite County school board annually.

All students in the Amite County School District shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff members in the Amite County School District are encouraged to model a lifestyle of healthy eating patterns and moderate physical activity as a valuable part of their daily lives.

To meet this goal, the Amite County School District School Board adopts this school wellness policy with the following commitments to implementing a coordinated approach to school health. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in culture

Specifically, the federal legislation requires:

- Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. LEA's are required to review and consider evidenced-based strategies in determining these goals.
- Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students 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.
- Standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students 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.

## **NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES**

*Minimum Requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2001).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2002).
- Include goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities to promote student wellness.
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi

Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4011).

- a. Healthy food and beverage choices;
  - b. Healthy food preparation;
  - c. Marketing of healthy food choices to students, staff and parents;
  - d. Food preparation ingredients and products;
  - e. Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;
  - f. Availability of food items during the lunch and breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Programs;
  - g. Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. (see Nutrition Environment and Services section of the *Tools That Work – Your Guide to Success for Building a Healthy School* Toolkit that is found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>)
  - Establish standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g. in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
  - Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for the sale of food items for fundraising.
  - Use Smart Snacks Resources to educate the school community about the importance of offering healthy snacks for students and staff members. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks> Smart Snacks Product Calculator.
  - The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Product Calculator is an effective online instrument that has been determined by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to be accurate in assessing product compliance with the federal requirements for Smart Snacks in Schools. The calculator can be used for food and beverage products. <https://www.healthiergeneration.org/>

## FOOD SAFE SCHOOLS

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school sites. HACCP Principles for K-12 schools can be downloaded at: [https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/Food\\_Safety\\_HACCPGuidance.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/Food_Safety_HACCPGuidance.pdf)
  - Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with Fight Bac® ([www.fightbac.org](http://www.fightbac.org)) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in schools.
  - Ensure that all staff has received instructions to support food safety on the school campus. Food Safety resources have been developed by the Office of Child Nutrition to assist with the training of school staff members. These resources which include a training power-point presentation, food Safety Post Test and Food Safety Post Test Answer Key can be found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>
  - All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, foodservice staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy that includes food safety policies and procedures and provides for relevant professional development.
  - Adequate access to hand-washing facilities and supplies will be available whenever and wherever students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
  - The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.
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- Encourage students to make food choices based on the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) and the ChooseMyPlate resources, by emphasizing menu options that feature baked (rather than fried foods), whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables, and reduced-fat dairy products. Read more about HHFKA at <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>
  - Establish a cafeteria environment conducive to a positive dining experience, with socializing among students and between students and adults; with supervision of eating areas by adults who model proper conduct and

voice level; and with adults who model healthy habits by eating with the students.

- Replace deep fat fryers with combination oven steamers.
- Schedule recess before lunch, in order to increase meal consumption and nutrient intake at meals and to improve behavior in the dining area.
- Make school meals accessible to all students with a variety of delivery strategies, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go lunches, or alternate eating sites.
- Add nutritious and appealing options (such as fruits, vegetables, reduced-fat milk, reduced fat-yogurt, reduced-fat cheese, 100% juice, and water) whenever foods/beverages are sold or otherwise offered at school, including vending machines, school stores, concession stands at sporting and academic events, parties, celebrations, social events, and other school functions.
- Eliminate use of food as rewards for student accomplishment and the withholding of food as punishment (e.g., restricting a child's selection of flavored milk at mealtime due to behavior problems). Also, do not use any type of physical activity as a means of punishment.
- Encourage all school-based organizations to use services, contests, non-food items, and/or healthy foods for fundraising programs. The sale of candy and other foods and beverages that do not meet the Smart Snacks Standards are prohibited from being sold as fundraisers during the school day.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

### *Minimum Requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, 2014 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 27.1.
- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4012).
- Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.
- Require fitness testing for high school students; during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4012).
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.
- Instruction must be based on Mississippi Physical Education Frameworks.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007.
- Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie unit in physical education.
- Provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9-12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for physical education or health Education. MS Code 37-13-134.
- Address concussions by adopting and implementing a policy for students in grades 7-12 who participate in activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). This policy will include a concussion recognition course that has been endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Health. This course will provide information on the nature and risk of concussions for students participating in athletics. Also included in the policy, parents/guardians will be provided with a concussion policy before the start of regular school athletic season.
- Links to resources to aid policy development and Office of Healthy Schools website.
  - a. [www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/high\\_school.html#5](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/high_school.html#5)
  - b. <http://www.misshsaa.com/GeneralInfo/SportsMedicine.aspx>
  - c. <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ohs/home> <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>
- Schedule recess (or physical education) before lunch times in order to increase food consumed, decrease plate waste, and improve cafeteria behavior.
- Incorporate 5 to 10 minute physical activity sessions in classrooms to teach subject areas and to make transitions between different lessons (Examples can be found at [www.move.to/learn.ms.org](http://www.move.to/learn.ms.org))

## HEALTH EDUCATION

*Minimum Requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Provide ½ Carnegie unit of health education for graduation (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards).
  - Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades 9-12 (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards).
  - Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
  - Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades K-8.
  - Implement the requirements of MS Code 37-13-171, which requires the development of a sex related education policy and instruction on medically accurate or evidenced based abstinence-only, abstinence-plus, or sexual risk avoidance education curricula.
  - Provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9-12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for health education or physical education. MS Code 37-13-134.
- **Integrate Health Education into other subject areas.** [www.movetolearnms.org](http://www.movetolearnms.org) (Click on Lesson Plans)

## HEALTH SERVICES

*Minimum Requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the 2013 Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care.
  - Provide for teachers and staff training regarding signs and symptoms of asthma. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
  - Every child who has been diagnosed with asthma must have an asthma action plan on file in the school office.
  - Know the district anaphylaxis policy. Providing training by a healthcare professional, preferably a school nurse, for the individuals that will be responsible for implementing the policy at the school site. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- The school nurse should attend at least one MDE sponsored training each school year.
  - The school nurse should submit health services data on the 10th of each month for the previous month.
  - Offer comprehensive health services for students in grades K-12, through the employment of school nurses, as a means to academic success.
  - Optimize the provision of health services with a school nurse-to-student ratio of 1:750 for students in the general population.
  - Collaborate with other school staff to provide health services as part of a Coordinated School Health Program.
  - Work with students, parents, and local healthcare providers to effectively manage and treat chronic diseases.
  - Schools may seek community support that provides auto-injector epinephrine to stock emergency medication needs.

## COUNSELING, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES/SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CLIMATE

*Minimum Requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (436 or 451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and scores a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.
- Abide by Mississippi Code 37-9-79 as the school provides for counseling and guidance for students.
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and

Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. MS Code 37-9-79.

- Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:

a. Academic and personal/social counseling.

b. Student assessment and assessment counseling.

c. Career and educational counseling.

d. Individual and group counseling.

e. Crisis intervention and preventive counseling.

f. Provide all licensed teachers and principals with in-service suicide prevention training as directed by MS Code 37-3-101.

g. Referrals to community agencies.

h. Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders.

i. Education and career placement services.

j. Follow-up counseling services.

k. Conflict resolution.

l. Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students as outlined by the American School Counselor Association

- Provide additional services to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health.
- Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.
- Hire qualified counselors who will address the mental health, academic, and career needs of students in the school setting.

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### *Minimum Requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Invite parents and community members to participate in school health planning by serving on the local School Health Council.
- Establish methods to inform and update the public regarding the LSWP and the assessment of the LSWP

## MARKETING A HEALTHLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

### *Minimum Requirements:*

- Eliminate advertising or promoting unhealthy food choices on the school campus. Advertising must be restricted to only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School Nutrition Standards.

### *Minimum requirements:*

The Amite County School District will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to insure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written.
- Establish and support a School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).
- Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas for improvement.
- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary.

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  2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; OR
  3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)
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