



West Green Elementary School Wellness Policy



West Green Elementary School (herein referred to as WGES) is committed to the optimal development of every student. WGES believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year. Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during, and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. This policy outlines WGES 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.

Nutrition Education

Goal: WGES will educate all students about healthy eating habits. Nutrition education is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.

Goal: Nutrition education will include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens.

- Nutrition education will be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and follows the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Georgia Public Schools Nutrition Policy. Nutrition education will also be integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, and social science.
- WGES teaches students nutrition education using scientifically-based, up-to-date nutrition information consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. WGES will include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Food guidance from <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>
- Reading and using USDA's food labels
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Food Safety
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers, and culture.
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior.
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior.
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others; healthy dietary behavior.



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Nutrition Promotion

Goal: WGES will incorporate local and/or regional products into the school meal program

Goal: WGES will host field trips to an agricultural center.

WGES will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs.

-WGES students and staff will participate in **National School Breakfast and Lunch Week** and receive consistent nutrition messages throughout the school, classrooms, gymnasium, and cafeteria.

Regular Physical Activity

Goal: WGES will create a school environment that is conducive to being physically active for all students.

-WGES will **provide** opportunities for all students to maintain physical fitness by participating in physical education class and/or recess every day. All WGES students in grades K-5 will receive physical education for at least 90 minutes per week throughout the school year.

-WGES will offer at least 15 minutes of recess on all or most days during the year.

- Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play.
- Active recess programming will be utilized to create universal participation by offering multiple activities at recess; designate different areas of play throughout the playground; provide equipment to decrease congestion on play structures.
- In the event that the school or district must conduct indoor recess, teachers and staff promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Goal: WGES will offer students a variety of physical activity opportunities that are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education.

-WGES staff provides short (3-5 minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom times. Activity break ideas are available through *Go Noodle*

Other School Based Activities

Goal: WGES will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, and physical activity facilities.



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- WGES implements *Capturing Kids' Hearts* in our daily schedules to support wellness of the whole child.
- Monthly "Tribe" Time with a Caring Adult in the Building
- WGES promotes the county's *Know Your Worth* Campaign.
- Nine Week Recognition Assemblies
- Jump Rope for Heart

Goal: WGES will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be invited to participate in school-sponsored events and will receive information about health promotion.

- When feasible, WGES will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school.
- WGES hosts field days and water days that promote various activities outside.

Nutrition Standards and Guidelines

WGES will provide all students with meals and Smart Snacks that are USDA compliant. WGES is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and zero grams trans fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meet the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. WGES will participate in the USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBA). WGES is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs.

- All school meals are accessible to all students.
- Drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day.
- Students will be allowed adequate time to eat breakfast and lunch (at least 20 minutes), counting from the time they have received their meal and seated.
- All school nutrition program staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education requirements in the USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals.
- The foods and beverages sold outside of the school meals programs will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Sodas will not be allowed during lunch.
- All food marketed on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Exemptions may be allowed at the discretion of the school principal, but shall not exceed the 20 exemptions allowed.



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WGES will provide a list of healthy party ideas and snacks to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.

WGES will provide to staff and parents a list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards and a list of alternative ways to reward children.

Food and beverages will not be withheld as punishment for any reason, such as performance or behavior.

Only food and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. Exemptions may be allowed at the discretion of the school principal, but shall not exceed the 20 exemptions allowed.

Wellness Committee Stakeholder Feedback & Awareness of Wellness Policy Implementation Goals

West Green will include representatives from the school food authority, PE teacher, school nurse, school counselor, academic coach, and school administrators as committee members to develop, implement, and periodically review and update the wellness policy.

WGES will encourage parents and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy via our school website and end of year assemblies.

West Green's School Governance Council members and Board Member Representative will be involved in an annual review and update of WGES' Wellness Policy.

WGES will solicit student feedback in the development, review and update of the wellness policy during monthly TRIBE sessions.

WGES wellness chairperson/school counselor will use our school website to share the school wellness policy, data showing how our wellness policy was implemented, updates to the policy, and three year assessment findings.



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WGES will conduct an assessment every three years of the wellness policy to ensure district alignment during a wellness committee meeting where wellness committee members and stakeholders will be invited to attend and provide suggestions to consider when updating the policy.