

**YES Prep Public Schools, Inc., 00496 WELLNESS PLAN**

This document, referred to as the “wellness plan” (the plan), is intended to implement policy FFA(LOCAL), which has been adopted by the Board to comply with the requirements for a school wellness policy. [Section 9A(a) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 U.S.C. 1758b; 7 C.F.R. Part 210]

The District’s local School Wellness Council (SWC) will work on behalf of the District to review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques to develop and implement nutrition guidelines and wellness goals required by federal law.

**SOLICITING INVOLVEMENT AND INPUT**

Federal law requires that certain stakeholders be involved in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The SWC will solicit involvement and input from parents, students, the District’s food service provider, physical education teachers, school health professionals, Board members, administrators, and members of the public by:

1. Inform the public about the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy and make the policy and any updates available to the public annually via the District website.
2. Posting on the District’s Child Nutrition website the dates and times of the SWC meetings at which the wellness policy and plan are scheduled to be discussed.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The District is responsible for implementing the wellness plan across the district, including submitting necessary information to the SWC for evaluation. The Child Nutrition Program Director is the District official responsible for overall implementation, including development of this wellness plan and any other appropriate administrative procedures, and for ensuring that each campus complies with the policy and plan.

**IMPLEMENTING GOALS FOR NUTRITION PROMOTION AND NUTRITION EDUCATION****GOALS FOR NUTRITION PROMOTION**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for nutrition promotion in its wellness policy. The District’s nutrition promotion activities will encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and any supplemental food and nutrition programs offered by the District. The District will ensure that any food and beverage advertisements marketed to students during the school day meet the Smart Snack standards.

The SWC will monitor this by:

1. Encouraging healthy eating habits by posting and distributing healthy advertisements in the cafeteria and around campus. The district shall also provide nutritional information to families and the public.

2. Collaborating with the Child Nutrition Department, the Food Service Management Company (FSMC), campus administration and District student culture department. Creating advertisements to be displayed throughout the school that showcase foods that meet smart snacks standards.
3. Although the District is not required to immediately remove or replace food and beverage advertisements on items such as menu boards or other food service equipment, or on scoreboards or gymnasiums, the SWC will make recommendations when replacements or new advertisements are considered.

### **Implementing Goals for Nutrition Promotion**

**Goal 1:** The District's food service staff, teachers, and other District personnel shall consistently promote healthy nutrition messages in cafeterias, classrooms, and other appropriate settings. The District will encourage marking in classrooms to be limited to those products that are allowed to be sold according to the district's nutrition standards.

**Objective 1:** The district will increase meal participation by promoting healthy eating throughout the school year.

#### **Action Steps:**

- The District will post food and beverage advertisements/promotions that are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).
- The District will host sampling tastings of menu items to students and staff.
- The District will create a survey system for students to give feedback.

#### **School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Child Nutrition Department
- Food Service Management Company
- Local Non-Profit Organizations

#### **Resources Needed:**

- Supplies (food and technology)
- Personnel to host sampling event
- Personnel to evaluate student feedback and to design and implement requested changes.

#### **Measure of Success:**

- The increase of meal participation rates throughout the school year.

**Goal 2:** The District shall share educational nutrition information with families and the general public to promote healthy nutrition choices and positively influence the health of students.

**Objective 1:** The District shall provide families with resources to enrich healthy eating habits for students at home.

**Action Steps:**

- The District will communicate to families, nutrition and wellness resources that will foster healthy eating.
- The District will collect feedback by conducting one Child Nutrition Wellness Event at a designated campus per semester.
- The District will update the Child Nutrition Wellness website monthly.

**School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Child Nutrition Department
- Food Service Management Company
- Campus Administration and Staff
- Parents
- Students
- Community Partnerships

**Resources Needed:**

- Supplies (food and technology)
- Personnel

**Measure of Success:**

- Increased amount of parent surveys.

## **GOALS FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for nutrition education in its wellness policy. State law also requires that the District implement a coordinated health program with a component addressing nutrition services and health education at the elementary and middle school levels. All Child Nutrition Professionals are required to receive designated hours of Child Nutrition professional development training annually. In addition, the District will ensure food purchases are through local food and Buy American distributors for the meal programs.

### **Implementing Goals for Nutrition Education**

**Goal 1:** The District shall deliver nutrition education that fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors for elementary and secondary campuses.

**Objective 1:** Promote healthy eating behaviors through evidence-based curriculum and activities into the broader curriculum.

**Action Steps:**

- The Child Nutrition Team will provide nutrition materials on healthy eating to students each semester.
- Nutritional messaging will be displayed in each cafeteria in the District.
- The Child Nutrition Department will collaborate with campuses and conduct food tastings and samplings each semester.

**School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Child Nutrition Department
- Food Service Management Company
- Campus Administration and Staff
- Students
- Community Partnerships

**Resources Needed:**

- Supplies (food and technology)
- Personnel to host sampling event
- Personnel to evaluate student feedback and to design and implement requested changes.

**Measure of Success:**

- Tracking attendance through sign-in sheets and materials distributed from all events.

**Goal 2:** The District shall participate in community initiatives to promote healthy eating for our students from community stakeholders.

**Objective 1:** To foster community resources by building relationships with our stakeholders in our District.

**Action Steps:**

- The Child Nutrition Department will network at all required annual Professional Development training opportunities to meet potential community stakeholders.
- The Child Nutrition Department will identify community stakeholders vested in healthy eating and healthy lifestyle initiatives.
- The Child Nutrition Department will implement community initiatives each semester.

**School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Child Nutrition Department

- Food Service Management Company
- Campus Administration and Staff
- Students
- Community Partnerships

**Resources Needed:**

- Supplies (technology)
- Transportation
- Advertisement

**Measure of Success:**

- Successful partnerships with community stakeholders.

**GOALS FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for physical activity in its wellness policy. In accordance with state law, the District will implement a coordinated health program with physical education and physical activity components. The District will offer at least the required amount of physical activity for all grades [see 4 BDF, EHAA, EHAB, and EHAC], as follows:

- The District will implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated health program with physical education and physical activity components and will offer at least the required amount of physical activity for all grades. [See BDF, EHAA, EHAB, and EHAC]
- The District will meet the required physical activity in elementary school grades by providing at least 30 minutes per day of recess, weather permitting.
- All physical education courses should be taught by a licensed teacher.
- All staff involved in physical education should be provided with opportunities for professional development.
- Teachers should provide students with physical activity breaks.
- Health and wellness classes will be offered to staff.
- Schools should develop joint use agreements in order to provide physical activity opportunities for community members at the school.
- Schools should promote walking and biking to school.
- At the middle school level, the District will require students, unless exempted because of illness or disability, to be enrolled in physical education or athletics courses for at least four out of six semesters in grades six, seven and eight. PE curriculum will be designed to facilitate students to exercise at a moderate-vigorous intensity for at least 50% of instruction time. [Mandated by Education Code 28.002(l)–(l-1)]
- At the high school level, the District will require students, unless exempted because of illness or disability, to be enrolled in physical education or athletics courses for at least two of eight semesters

in grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. One credit hour of physical education (two semesters) is required for graduation from high school. [Mandated by Education Code 28.002(l)–(l-1)]

- Teachers may use non-food alternatives as rewards. For example, extra recess may be provided when time allows.
- Physical activity may not be assigned to students as a consequence of poor behavior or punishment for any reason.
- The District believes that recess and other opportunities for physical activity are an essential part of the school day. Teachers are encouraged to find alternatives to withholding recess or other physical activities as a punishment.

### **Implementing Goals For Physical Activity**

**Goal 1:** The District shall provide an environment that fosters safe, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate fitness activities for all students, including those who are not participating in physical education classes or competitive sports through programming during school as well as before or after school.

**Objective 1:** Physical education courses promote and develop lifelong fitness skills consistently across the District.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Identify equipment needs across campuses to support the introduction of various physical activities to students.
- Identify District personnel responsible for the upkeep and safety of the equipment.
- Observe physical education classes to ensure compliance.

#### **School and Community Stakeholders:**

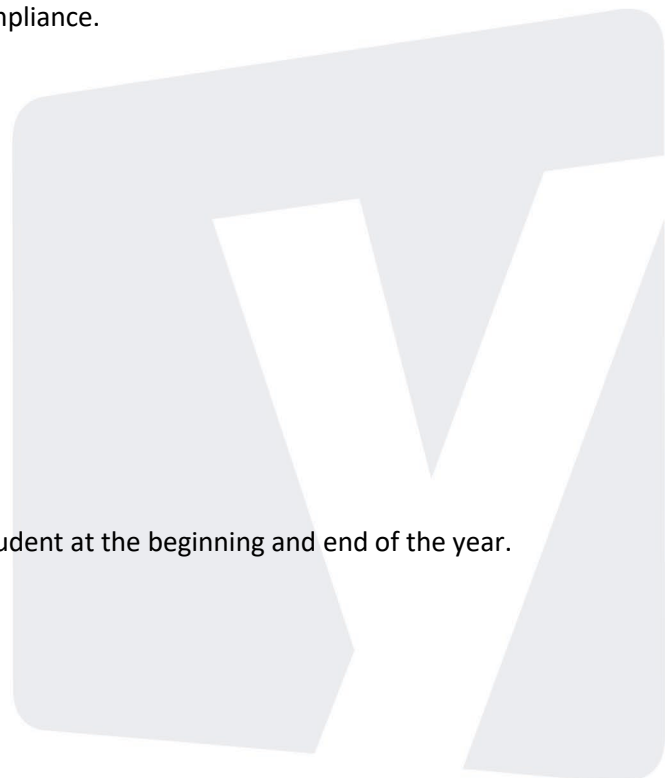
- Physical Education course leader and teachers
- Athletic Staff
- Facilities Department
- District Grant Writers

#### **Resources Needed:**

- Funding for new equipment
- School Facilities Department

#### **Measure of Success:**

- A fitness gram assessment conducted for each student at the beginning and end of the year.



**Goal 2:** The District shall make appropriate before-school and after-school physical activity programs available and shall encourage students, family and community members to participate.

**Objective 1:** To ensure students have access to physical activity outside of school hours.

**Action Steps:**

- Collaborate with school programs to provide physical activity programs before and after school.
- Encourage student participation in physical activity programs before and after school inside and outside of school.
- Campuses will communicate with families the physical activity programs offered before and after school.
- Physical activity opportunities should be provided at the school for families and community members.

**School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Campus Administration and Staff
- Physical Education Course Leaders and Teachers
- Athletic Staff
- Facilities Department
- Before School/After School Programs
- Families and Community Members

**Resources Needed:**

- School Facilities
- Supplies
- Equipment

**Measure of Success:**

- Student attendance through before school and after school rosters.

## **GOALS FOR OTHER SCHOOL BASED ACTIVITIES**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for other school-based activities in its wellness policy to promote student wellness, create an environment that encourages healthful eating and physical activity, and promote a consistent wellness message.

## **Implementing Goals For Other School Based Activities**



**Goal 1:** The District shall allow sufficient time for students to eat meals in cafeteria facilities that are clean, safe, and comfortable.

**Objective 1:** All campuses will build their master schedules to allow for a minimum 30-minute breakfast block and a minimum 30-minute lunch block during the school year and in the summer. Hours of operation for breakfast must be in the AM (morning hours) and lunch must be between 10am and 2pm. The district must provide a two-hour interval between meal services. If serving supper and snack at a campus, supper must be served first, and snack served an hour after.

**Action Steps:**

- Evaluate current mealtime allowances by campus.
- Work with campus administrators to adjust mealtime schedules as needed.
- Observe campus breakfast, lunch, supper, and snack routines to ensure students are receiving their full mealtime allowance.

**School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Child Nutrition Department
- Campus Administration and Staff
- Cafeteria Servers
- Lunch Program Monitors
- Students

**Resources Needed:**

- Monitoring Forms
- Cafeteria Wall Clocks

**Measure of Success:**

- Reviewing the bell schedule for each campus to ensure compliance.

**Goal 2:** The District shall promote student wellness (health, mental, behavioral, emotional, and social) at suitable District and campus activities for students, parents, staff, and community members.

**Objective 1:** Wellness materials will be available for events and celebrations (e.g., classroom celebrations, athletic events) for all campuses.

**Action Steps:**

- Child Nutrition Team will inform campus leaders of wellness materials they can utilize on their campuses.
- The wellness page on the Child Nutrition website will be updated monthly.
- The Child Nutrition Department will conduct public School Wellness Council (SWC) meetings quarterly.



**School and Community Stakeholders:**

- Child Nutrition Department
- Campus Administration and Staff
- Parents
- Students

**Resources Needed:**

- Wellness Materials
- Legacy Clinic Professionals

**Measure of Success:**

- A decrease in student behaviors and a reduction in mental and health referrals.

**NUTRITION GUIDELINES**

All District campuses participate in the U.S Department of Agriculture's (USDA) child nutrition program including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). As required by Federal Law, the District has established nutrition guidelines to ensure that all foods and beverages sold or marketed to students during the school day on each campus adhere to all federal regulations and guidance are designed to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

**PROTECTION AGAINST STIGMA FROM SCHOOL MEAL PARTICIPATION**

Consistent with federal guidelines, District food authorities and Food Service Management Company employees will assure that a child's eligibility status is not disclosed at any point in the process of providing free or reduced-price meals, including notification of the availability of free or reduced-price benefits, certification and notification of eligibility, provision of meals in the cafeteria, and the point of service (POS). Specifically, the cafeterias are cashless— all students, regardless of the type of payment they make for school meals, or the food being purchased (meal or a la carte), enter their student id at the register (scanning or typing in). The District will serve students a reimbursable meal. Each student is allowed one reimbursable meal type per day (one breakfast, one lunch, one supper, one snack). If a second meal is requested, an alternative meal will be provided. All students eat free at the District. Should the District ever revert to students paying for meals, any student with an unpaid meal debt will receive a meal and any second meal will receive an alternative meal. Applications for free/reduced priced meals are provided to all families attending a non-community eligible provision (CEP) campus at the beginning of the school year. The application is also available on the district website.

**FOODS AND BEVERAGES SOLD**

The District will comply with federal requirements for reimbursable meals. For other foods and beverages sold to students during the school day, the District will comply with the federal requirements for competitive foods. Competitive foods and beverages are not part of the regular meal programs and occur through sales such as a la carte options or vending machines. For purposes of this plan, these requirements will be referred to as “Smart Snacks” standards or requirements. The following websites have information regarding meal and Smart Snacks requirements:

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks>

Free drinking water is available to students at no charge in cafeterias through portable water stations/fountains during meal service.

## CAFFINE

High school principals are encouraged to limit the sale of beverages with caffeine to high school students (coffee, etc.).

## FUNDRAISERS and Campus Events – Foods Sold /Foods Given Away- Waiver Days

State rules adopted by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) allow an exemption to the Smart Snacks requirements for up to six days per year per campus when a food or beverage is sold as part of a District fundraiser.

Below is the Waiver Day Policy for foods and beverages sold and given away on a campus that do not meet the competitive meal standards:

- Each campus gets 6 days (waiver days) per school year to sell or give away foods, snacks, or beverages on campus during the school day that do not have to meet federal nutrition standards (ex. Chick-fil-A, Pizza Hut, donuts, etc.). These waiver days must be requested through Child Nutrition, and they must be approved **prior** to having the event.
- On campus includes any areas that students can access during the school day.
- School Day begins at midnight and ends 30 minutes after the official school day ends.
- On waiver days, food, snacks, and beverages may be sold on campus **except in the cafeterias during meal service time or where school meals are usually sold or consumed.**
- Waiver days must be requested from Child Nutrition at least 2 weeks prior to the event so necessary meal number adjustments can be made, if necessary.

When requesting a waiver day to Child Nutrition, please include the following:

- Type of event
- Date
- Beginning and ending time of event
- Location where the event will be held (which campus and where on campus).

- What food will be sold (Ex.. pizza, chips, candy, etc.)?
- Approximately how many students will participate? Will students still eat during the normal lunch time in the cafeteria?

Once the request has been submitted via email, a notification will be sent by the Child Nutrition department of the request status.

For any holiday celebrations not limited to, but including Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine's Day, foods that do not meet the competitive food standards, must utilize a waiver day.

This policy for snack and beverage nutrition standards apply to all fundraiser foods and beverages sold on campus except:

- Food and beverages sold outside of the school day (30 minutes after school is out). 30 minutes after school is out, any foods or beverages can be sold on campus.

#### **FOODS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED- FREE / GIVEN AWAY SMALL SETTINGS**

The District will comply with state law, which allows a parent, guardian, or grandparent to provide a food product of his or her choice to classmates of the person's child or grandchild on the occasion of the student's birthday or to children at a school-designated function. [See CO(LEGAL)]

In addition, the District has established the following local standards for other foods and beverages made available to students for elementary birthdays, campus celebrations and campus incentives.

#### **Elementary Campuses - Birthdays in Classrooms**

Birthday celebrations in the classroom (up to 22 students per classroom) can be held any time after lunch and before dismissal at the campus's discretion. Birthday treats must be store bought. Food made at home may NOT be distributed to students. Families are encouraged to bring individual servings such as cupcakes or cookies. If allowed by the campus, parents are welcome to attend, and more details will be provided by the campus. If parents are not allowed to attend, the campus will provide the specifics on dropping off the food items.

#### **Secondary Campuses - Birthdays in Classrooms**

At the campus discretion, birthday celebrations in the classroom (up to 22 students per classroom) can be held after lunch and before dismissal. Birthday treats must be store bought. Food made at home may NOT be distributed to students. Families are encouraged to bring individual servings such as cupcakes or cookies. If allowed by the campus, parents are welcome to attend, and more details will be provided by the campus. If parents are not allowed to attend, the campus will provide the specifics on dropping off the food items.

### **Elementary Incentives**

Each campus will be allowed up to four days per month for academic or behavioral incentive events. This includes food and beverages, prizes and giveaways in school stores or designated area. Foods given away on these days are for incentive purposes only and do not have to meet the SMART Snacks guidelines. School Culture teams, principals, teachers, and staff are encouraged to provide non-food items for incentives. When food items are given as a student incentive, staff must notify the child nutrition team by email at [Childnutrition@yesprep.org](mailto:Childnutrition@yesprep.org) 2 weeks prior to the event or school store opening.

### **Secondary Incentives**

Each campus will be allowed up to four days per month for academic or behavioral incentive events. This includes food and beverages, prizes and giveaways in school stores or designated area. Foods given away on these days are for incentive purposes only and do not have to meet the SMART Snacks guidelines. School Culture teams, principals, teachers, and staff are encouraged to provide non-food items for incentives. When food items are given as a student incentive, staff must notify the child nutrition team by email at [Childnutrition@yesprep.org](mailto:Childnutrition@yesprep.org) 2 weeks prior to the event or school store opening.

### **Food as a Reward or Punishment**

Food shall not be used as a reward on any campus in the District unless there is an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) on file that lists food/snack as a reward.

Food shall not be used as a punishment on any campus in the District.

### **Food as a Reward for Self-Contained Classrooms**

Students in self-contained classrooms such as SPED, 504, Y-Step, THRIVE, 18+, etc.. with a behavior modification plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) where it is written that food/snacks can be given as a reward or incentive for good behavior, are exempt from only having SMART snacks in that self-contained classroom during the day.

### **SMART Snacks**

SMART SNACKS are snacks that meet the competitive nutritional standards. These include snacks like Whole Grain Rice Krispie treats, baked chips\* (not all baked chips are SMART snack compliant), etc. The snack must be entered into the SMART snack calculator to determine if it qualifies ([www.healthiergeneration.org](http://www.healthiergeneration.org)). SMART snacks do not require a waiver day; however, they do require approval from Child Nutrition 2 weeks prior to serving.

**SMART Pizza**

Domino's is a pizza chain that offers SMART Pizzas. These pizzas are approved by mandate because they meet the nutritional requirements set forth by the USDA. SMART Pizzas from Domino's require special ingredients (whole grain dough, low fat cheese and reduced sodium pepperoni) and must be ordered in advance from the pizza location. A retail pizza is not a SMART pizza. For SMART Pizzas, the campus will need to provide Child Nutrition with the SMART pizza confirmation prior to the event. Smart Pizzas do not require a waiver day; however, they do require approval from Child Nutrition 2 weeks prior to serving.

**MEASURING COMPLIANCE WITH NUTRITION GUIDELINES**

The District will measure compliance with the nutrition guidelines by reviewing meal reimbursement submissions from the child nutrition department to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), reviewing foods and beverages that are sold in competition with regular school meals, reviewing items sold as part of approved District fundraisers, and monitoring the types of foods and beverages made available to students during the school day.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The Child Nutrition Director shall oversee the implementation of this plan and appropriate administrative procedures.

**POLICY AND PLAN EVALUATION**

At least every three years, as required by law, the District will measure and make available to the public the results of an assessment of the implementation of the District's wellness policy and update accordingly. This "triennial assessment" will evaluate the extent to which each campus is compliant with the wellness policy, the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy, and the extent to which the wellness policy and plan compare with any state or federally designated model policies. The School Wellness Council (SWC) will consider evidence-based strategies when setting and evaluating goals and measurable outcomes.

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

Annually, the District will notify the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and plan and any updates to these materials.

To comply with the legal requirement to annually inform and update the public about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy, the District will create a wellness page on its website to document information and activity related to the school wellness policy, including:

1. A copy of the wellness policy [see FFA(LOCAL)];
2. A copy of this wellness plan, with dated revisions;
3. Notice of any Board-adopted revisions to FFA(LOCAL);

4. The name, position, and contact information of the District official responsible for oversight and implementation of the wellness policy and wellness plan;
5. Notice of any Wellness Council meeting at which the wellness policy or implementation documents are scheduled for discussion;
6. The Wellness Council's triennial assessment; and
7. Any other relevant information.

The District will also publish the above information in appropriate District or campus publication.

#### **RECORDS RETENTION**

Records regarding the District's wellness policy will be retained in accordance with law and the District's records management program. Questions may be directed to the Child Nutrition Director, the District's designated records management officer. [See CPC(LOCAL)]

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

**May 11, 2023**

