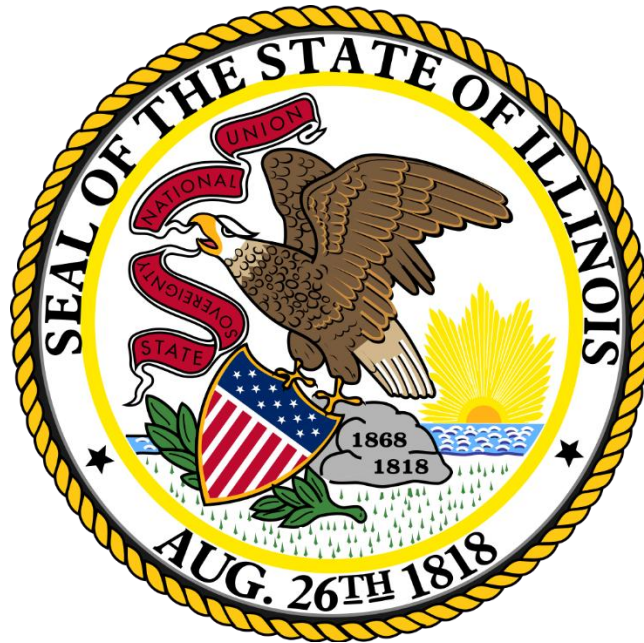


Malden CCSD #84



Local Wellness Policy

3-20-2024

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Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

Wellness Policy Committee

Wellness Policy Leadership

Mike Patterson, Superintendent

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Wellness Policy Committee Members

Brenda Dye, Administrative Assistant

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Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities

Public Involvement

The Local Education Agency permits and encourages public involvement in Local Wellness Policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, the LEA shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in Local Wellness Policy processes. The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes:

- School Website – maldengradeschool.org
- Monthly Newsletter

Assessments

Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Malden CCSD #84 shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every three (3) years, beginning in 2021 and occurring every three (3) years thereafter. These triennial assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy is in compliance with USDA, State, and Local rules and regulations
- Compare the LEA's wellness policy to model wellness policies
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in the LEA's wellness policy

Updates

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate in order to fit the needs and goals of the Local Education Agency. The LEA shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy

Through the following channels:

- School Website – maldengradeschool.org
- Monthly Newsletter

Records

The Local Education Agency shall maintain record of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process

Nutrition

The Local Education Agency recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the effects of nutrition on the classroom, for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' success, attendance, and behavior.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 18.5 percent of the nation's youth was considered obese in 2015-16. This percentage increased 1.3 percent when compared to the previous year. Conversely, 15.7 percent of American families experienced food hardship in 2017. Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students in order to prevent both overconsumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity to give students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Nutrition Standards

Meals

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (i.e. Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans fat.

Competitive Foods

All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day).

Other Foods and Beverages

The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit food and beverage items that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards for reward and celebration purposes. More than 25 percent of children's daily calories may come from snacks, therefore, providing Smart Snacks allows for a more nutrient-dense calorie intake.

Fundraisers

All fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

The school shall also utilize non-food fundraisers to promote healthy habits and well-being. The school will implement the following non-food fundraising ideas:

- Annual 5k Run/Walk
- Quarter Auction
- School Spirit Wear

Nutrition Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Health Education. The Local Education Agency shall include nutrition education within the health education curriculum and integrate nutrition education into other core subjects, as appropriate. Various grade levels and curriculums shall use nutrition education information, research, and materials from the following resources:

- My Plate poster displayed in the cafeteria
- Go, Slow, Whoa posters displayed in the cafeteria
- Health Textbook: Glencoe "Teen Health"
 - Chapter 9: Nutrition
 - Lesson 1: Nutrients Your Body Needs
 - Lesson 2: Creating a Healthy Eating Plan
 - Lesson 3: Managing Your Weight
 - Lesson 4: Body Image and Eating Disorders

The Local Education Agency shall incorporate nutrition education into the following curriculums for the following grade levels:

- Nutrition unit in Junior High Health class (2 weeks, 10 lessons/activities)

Nutrition Promotion

The District shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels, including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

The District shall make cafeteria menus and nutrition information available through the following platforms:

- Lunch menus mailed home
- School Website – maldenschool.org
- Monthly menu posted in the lunchroom

Farm to School efforts positively impact School Nutrition Programs by serving fresh and nutritious food items. Additionally, Farm to School programs have been linked to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. The District shall participate in the following Farm to School activities:

- Monthly Ag in the Classroom Presentations
- Yearly attendance at the Bureau County Ag Fair for 4th grade students
- Unfortunately, we don't have local Farm to School foods near us.

Food loss and waste continue to be an issue facing the nation's food supply. In order to prevent food waste, the District will make every effort to produce the precise number of meals needed on any given day by using production records and resources such as the USDA's Food Buying Guide. However, in the event excess food remains, the District will continue to provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided through the USDA School Nutrition Programs. Therefore, the District shall follow the established food sharing plan, in accordance with Public Act 102-0359, and federal and local regulations and sanitation codes:

- Save and claim for reimbursement at another meal service
- Send home with students before winter and spring break

Mental Health

Schools help promote the mental health and well-being of students through education, prevention, and early intervention efforts. They provide an opportunity to reach a large number of youth with strategies that can lessen the impact of negative experiences and improve students' health and well-being.

- Schools can establish safe and supportive environments.
- Schools can connect students to caring adults and encourage positive peer relationships.
- Schools can give students mental health support and link them and their families to community behavioral and mental health services.

- Schools that promote student mental health and well-being can improve classroom behavior, school engagement, and peer relationships. These factors are connected to academic success.

Physical Activity

Physical activity is a key component of the health and well-being of all students. Physical activity lowers the risk for certain diseases, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Physical activity also helps improve brain function, allowing students to perform better in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adolescents get at least 60 minutes of physical activity five days per week. Nearly 79 percent of school-age children fall short of meeting this requirement. The Local Education Agency recognizes this connection and commits to promoting and providing opportunities for physical activity during and outside the school day.

Physical Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Physical Education. The LEA shall offer Physical Education class as follows:

- Elementary (K-4) PE is offered daily for 40 min
- Junior High (5-8) PE is offered daily for 42 min

Other Opportunities for Physical Activity

The District shall include additional physical activity opportunities, outside of Physical Education class, during the school day through the following:

- Morning recess is offered daily for 25 minutes before school
- Elementary students (K-4) have recess for 15 minutes daily
- Lunch recess is offered daily for a minimum of 20 minutes

The following opportunities for participation in school-based sports shall be offered to students each year:

- Volleyball (5th-8th)
- Boys Basketball (5th-8th)
- Cheerleading (5th-8th)
- Girls Basketball (5th-8th)
- Track (5th-8th)

Physical Activity Promotion

The District shall promote physical activity through the participation in the following initiative(s):

- Health Textbook: Glencoe “Teen Health” (2 week unit, 10 lessons/activities)
 - Chapter 10: Physical Activity
 - Lesson 1: Becoming Physically Fit
 - Lesson 2: Creating a Fitness Plan
 - Lesson 3: Performing at your Best
 - Lesson 4: Preventing Sports Injuries

Other School-Based Activities

Just as it takes a comprehensive curriculum to provide education to support students’ futures, the Local Education Agency’s wellness approach must also be comprehensive in its intent to provide students with the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. In order to further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, the LEA commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The Local Education Agency shall offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events shall be organized and promoted each year:

- Picnic Day Physical Activities (i.e. walk-a-thon, bouncy house, outdoor activities, etc)
- Student vs. Parent Basketball and Volleyball Games
- Fitnessgram
- Annual 5k Run/Walk

The following health, wellness, and/or nutrition clubs shall be offered to students each year:

- Student Council Field Trips (i.e. Trampoline Park, Skiing, Roller Skating Party, etc)
- 5th-8th Walking Cemetery Study