

Local School Wellness Policy Requirements Overview

Each local education agency (LEA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) is required to establish a written local school wellness policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. The policy guides the LEA's efforts in establishing a school environment that promotes students' health, well-being, and ability to learn. According to the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), a local school wellness policy must achieve the following:

- Inform and update the public (including parents, students, and others in the community) annually about the content and implementation of local school wellness policies
- Outline specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness
- Establish standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day
- Establish standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students
- Define policies that restrict the marketing of food and beverages to those that meet Smart Snacks requirements
- Allow public involvement and participation in the wellness policy process
- Review and consider evidence-based strategies in determining local school wellness goals
- Involve, inform, and update the public (including parents, students, and other stakeholders) about the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy
- Should be updated and/or modified as needed
- Assess at least once every three years to determine compliance, progress, and the extent to which the policy compares to model school wellness policies
 - Assessments should determine the following:
 - If the stated policies in the local school wellness policy are being met
 - The extent to which schools comply with the local school wellness policy
 - The extent to which the local school wellness policy aligns with model policies
 - The progress toward attaining policy goals (The first assessments were due in June 2020.)
 - Assessments must be made available to the public (i.e., posting on the LEA website or similar)

The LEA must take the following actions:

- Appoint one or more LEA/school official(s) to ensure that each school complies with the wellness policy
- Permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and review and update of the local school wellness policy
- Keep all supporting documentation for the local school wellness policy implementation, assessment, and public updates. These records include, but are not limited to:
 - the written local school wellness policy;
 - documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public as required in 7 C.F.R. § 210.31(e); and
 - documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy for each school under its jurisdiction.

Additional Wellness Policy Resources and a sample of a model local school wellness policy can be found at [Team Nutrition webpage](#) and the USDA [USDA Local School Wellness Policy webpage](#).

Other helpful links:

- [Wellness Policy Best Practices - A Guide for Coordinated School Health](#)
- SY25-26 Local School Wellness Policy Template (Coming Soon!)
- Local Wellness Policy Checklist (Coming Soon!)