

6142.101 SALISBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

Preamble

The Salisbury Board of Education and the administration of Salisbury Central School (hereto referred to as the District) are committed to the optimal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create and sustain positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

This policy outlines the District's approach to establishing environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to work toward ensuring that:

- Students in the District have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus—in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active during, and after school;
- The school engages in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is invited to support the work of the District in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The District establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives. This policy applies to all students and staff at Salisbury Central School.

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

The District will convene a representative district wellness committee (hereto referred to as the DWC) that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy (heretofore referred to as “wellness policy”).

The DWC membership will include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (e.g., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; school health professionals (e.g., health education teachers, school health services staff [e.g., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services], and mental health and social services staff [e.g., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists]; school administrators (e.g., superintendent, principal, vice principal), school board members; health professionals (e.g., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public. To the extent possible, the DWC will reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Principal or designee(s) will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure the school's compliance with the policy.

The name(s), title(s), and contact information (email address is sufficient) of this/these individual(s) is:

Name	Title	Email address	Role
Stephanie Magyar	Principal	smagyar@salisburycentral.org	Chairperson
Sue Bucceri	Board Clerk	sbucceri@salisburycentral.org	Secretary Committee Member
Trish Malloy	Food Service Director	tmolloy3896@gmail.com	Food Service Advisor Compliance Advisor
Malinda Sears	Cafeteria Manager	msears@salisburycentral.org	Cafeteria Manager
Carol Hackett	MS Science Teacher	chackett@salisburycentral.org	Teacher Member
Jenni Hill	Gr. 5 Teacher	jrhill@salisburycentral.org	Teacher Member
Matt Janco	PE Teacher	mjanco@salisburcentral.org	Teacher Member
Mary Cadman	School Nurse	mcadman@salisburycentral.org	School Health Member
Donna Begley	School Counselor	dbegley@salisburycentral.org	Mental Health Member
Millen Murray	ES Paraprofessional	mmurray@salisburycentral.org	Staff Member
Kevin Wolgemuth	BOE Member	kwolgemuth@salisburycentral.org	School Board Member
Middle School Wellness Sub-Committee	Students		Student Members
Nic'Cole Lambert-Talhaoui	Parent	niccole.lambert@gmail.com	Parent Member Nurse
Michelle Sisk	Parent	michelle.renee.sisk@gmail.com	Parent Member Nutritionist
Karen Faveau	Parent	karenfav@me.com	Parent Member
Elizabeth Schaufelberger	Parent	elizabeth.H.lord@gmail.com	Parent Member
Samantha Case	Parent	skcaselcsw@gmail.com	Parent Member
Michelle Valencia	Parent	mishvalencia@gmail.com	Parent Member PTO Member
Rachel Tantri	Parent	Perlmutter_rachel@yahoo.com	Parent Member Nurse Practitioner
Karen Lundeen	Community	klund338@hotmail.com	Community Member Former Teacher
TBD	General Public		General Public

The Principal is the school wellness policy coordinator, who will oversee compliance with the policy.

II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

The District will work to develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and time lines and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where, and when, as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus,

food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. This wellness policy, policy assessment results and policy implementation assessment results, can be found at: www.salisburycentral.org.

Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at the main office of the elementary school building. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including (1) Efforts to actively solicit DWC membership from the required stakeholder groups; and (2) These groups' participation in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy;
- Documentation of annual policy progress reports; and
- Documentation of the triennial assessment of the policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with public notification requirements, including: (1) Methods by which the wellness policy, annual progress reports, and triennial assessments are made available to the public; and (2) Efforts to actively notify families about the availability of the wellness policy.

Annual Progress Reports

The District will compile and publish an annual report to share basic information about the wellness policy and report on the progress of the school in meeting wellness goals. This annual report will be published around the same time each year in the fall. This report will include, but is not limited to:

- The website address for the wellness policy and/or how the public can receive/access to a copy of the wellness policy;
- A description of the District's progress in meeting the wellness policy goals;
- A summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation;
- The name, position title, and contact information of the designated District policy leader(s) identified in Section I; and
- Information on how individuals and the public can get involved with the DWC or SWC.

The District will actively notify households/families of the availability of the annual report.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, in conjunction with the State Administrative Review of the breakfast/lunch program, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which the District is in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the District's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Mrs. Stephanie Magyar, Principal (860-435-9871 or smagyar@salisburycentral.org).

The District will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The DWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual progress reports and triennial assessments, and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed and updated at least every three years based on a review of the latest national recommendations pertaining to school health.

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications

The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of the DWC and members of the community can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy for that district. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families and the public are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, updates to the wellness policy, the availability of annual and triennial reports and how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district is communicating other important school information with parents.

III. Nutrition

School Meals

The District is committed to serving healthy breakfast and lunch 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. The school meal program aims to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns, and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs. Nutrition information for school meals will be provided by the District upon request.

The District participates in the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and USDA School Breakfast Program (SBP). The District is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
- Are purchased by students using a cashless system where all students, regardless of the type of payment they make for school meals, or the food being purchased (meal or a la carte) are given a code to enter at the cash register.
- Are always a reimbursable meal, regardless of whether the student has money to pay or owes money.
- Are eaten in the school cafeteria as students are not permitted to leave school during their lunch period.
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using **at least ten** of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:
 - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chafing dishes or hotel pans).

- Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
- Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
- All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
- Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab and go meals available to students.
- All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
- White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
- Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas
- A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
- Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas.
- Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
- Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.
- Menus will be created/reviewed by a Registered Dietitian or other certified nutrition professional.
- A team of child nutrition professionals administers school meals.
- The District child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and 20 minutes to eat lunch; counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets HSP Gold level). Students are served breakfast and lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.
- As the schedule permits, for students in grades Kindergarten-5, lunch will follow the recess period to better support learning and healthy eating.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.
- Applications for free/reduced priced meals are sent home to all families at the beginning of the school year and are available throughout the school year upon request from the main office and on the school's website.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals. These school nutrition personnel will refer to USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day. The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. In addition, students will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day. All water sources will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene standards.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The District is committed to supporting the goal that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and/or served outside of the school meal program (i.e., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification requirements, which are more strict than the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition

standards. All fundraisers held during the school day must meet the [State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification](#) requirements.

Nutrition Promotion

The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#); and
- Promoting foods and beverages that meet the State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification standards.

Parents are encouraged but not required to provide healthy snacks for special classroom events such as special events, birthdays and class parties. The guidelines for classroom celebrations will be as follows:

- Ideally, parents will provide the homeroom teacher with a minimum of 24-48 hours notice prior to sending in food for a celebration.
- Annually, homeroom teachers will request that families share any dietary restrictions related to their child's participation in birthday or holiday celebrations.
- Soda or energy drinks will not be permitted for classroom celebrations.
- Candy is discouraged for celebrations unless it serves as part of the decoration for a food item.
- The school will provide a list of healthy alternatives and non-food items that can be used for classroom celebrations.

Teachers are encouraged to find rewards and incentives that do not include food/beverages.

Food related school fundraisers will require administrative approval and must meet the requirements set by the State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification.

Nutrition Education

The District aims to teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. The School will work on developing high quality, grade-appropriate nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is integrated into classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

The District is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The District strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. It is the intent of the District to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising

and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the District's wellness policy and our commitment to the State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification program.

Food advertising and marketing is defined as an oral, written, or graphic statement made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. The advertising of foods and beverages that are not available for sale in the school will not be permitted on school property. Every effort will be made to select educational materials free of brand names/logos and illustrations of unhealthy foods. Advertising of any brand on containers used to serve food or in areas where food is purchased is prohibited. Food marketing will not be permitted in school publications or school media outlets. The school does not participate in corporate incentive programs or fundraisers that promote brands or provide children with free or discounted foods or beverages.

IV. Physical Activity

The district aims to provide opportunities for students to participate in no less than 25 minutes of physical activity every day through physical education, recess, classroom-based physical activity, walking to and from school as well as between the buildings and after school activities. Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, physical activity breaks, or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason. The District strongly recommends that staff use physical activity as a reward when feasible. Physical activity may not be assigned to students as a consequence of poor behavior or punishment for any reason. (Example: running laps or jogging around a playground). Students not meeting minimum academic requirements shall be prohibited from participating in interscholastic competition until the school has determined that the matter has been properly addressed. To the extent practicable, the District will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The District will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Physical Education

The District will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the "*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*" subsection).

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes which will have the same student/teacher ratios used in other classes. The District will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All District **elementary and middle school students** in each grade will receive physical education throughout the school year based on the following schedule . Grades K-1 will attend P.E. for 45 minutes every five days, grades 2-5 will attend P.E. for 45 minutes every 4 days and grades 6-8 will attend P.E. for 90 minutes every five days. The District physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the Presidential Youth Fitness Program or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student. In addition:

- Students will be moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of class time during most or all physical education class sessions.

- All physical education teachers will be required to participate in at least once a year professional development in education.
- All physical education classes are taught by licensed teachers who are certified or endorsed to teach physical education.
- Waivers, exemptions, or substitutions for physical education classes are not granted unless medically necessary.

Recess (Elementary)

All elementary students will have at least **20 minutes of recess** on all or most days during the school year (*This policy may be waived on early dismissal or late arrival days*). If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are given the opportunity to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built into the recess transition period/time frame before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play. Recess will be canceled if the outdoor temperature, including wind chill, is below 20 degrees, during storms with lightning or thunder, or at the discretion of the building administrator based on her best judgment of safety conditions. In the event that the school or district must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will encourage physical activity for students, to the extent practicable. Recess will complement, not substitute, for physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible. Recess **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason.

Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Middle)

Students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The District requires teachers to provide short (3-5 minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

Active Academics

Teachers will strive to incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies, and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day. Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Before and After School Activities

The District will encourage students to be physically active after school by providing information regarding Salisbury Recreation Commission and SOAR activities. This information will be forwarded to all parents and made available on the school’s website. Students in grades 7-8 will have the opportunity to participate in seasonal, interscholastic sports teams for both boys and girls in addition to the recreation and SOAR activities.

V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

The District will aim to integrate wellness activities related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria and physical activity facilities.

The District is encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the school or the District's curriculum experts.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state, or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary to the wellness policy, including but not limited to including the involvement of the DWC.

Many school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy. Many school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity opportunities.

Community Partnerships

The District will develop relationships with community partners (i.e. hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, etc.) in support of the implementation of this wellness policy. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

Community Health Promotion and Engagement

The District will promote the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity with its constituents throughout the school year. Families will be informed of and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

Whenever possible, the school will develop joint-use agreements with community partners such as the Town of Salisbury Recreation Commission and SOAR in order to provide expanded physical activity opportunities for all students and community members.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The District will encourage staff to promote and model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. Examples of strategies the school may use, as well as specific actions staff members can choose to take, include guest speakers, group hikes and games, and inclusion of health and nutrition news in the Principal's memo to staff.

The staff is provided with break/lunch periods and is not required to eat with students but those staff wishing to consume snacks or lunch alongside their students are encouraged to be mindful that only healthy food/beverages are present.

Professional Learning

When feasible, the District will try to offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class).

Glossary:

Extended School Day - time during before and after-school activities that include clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals, etc.

School Campus - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities such as the school building or on the school campus, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields, and stadiums (e.g. on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

School Day - midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

Triennial – recurring every three years.