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The 2023-2024 Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook sets forth the scholar's health policies and procedures as follows.

#### **3.35.05 SCHOOL NURSE**

Tacony Academy has a registered professional nurse who is responsible for handling a variety of student health concerns, promoting student health, and for maintaining all medical records on each student. The nurse coordinates and conducts all mandated screenings and health programs, and works directly with students to provide care and to give guidance and educational support to students in health-related matters. Parents/guardians and students are asked to contact the school nurse regarding any special health problems.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, they should ask the teacher for a pass to go to the nurse's office. The nurse will determine what care procedure will be followed.

The school nurse will:

Provide first aid in emergencies. The nurse will notify parents/ guardians when a student has been hurt or suddenly becomes seriously ill and needs immediate care from a doctor and/or hospital.

Notify parents/guardians when a student can no longer remain in class and needs to be taken home because of injury, illness or a communicable condition, such as the following: fever of 100.4 or more, suspected contagious disease, vomiting, diarrhea, head lice, cannot remain comfortably in class, and undetermined rash.

### **3.35.10 IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Pennsylvania Public School Code now requires all public schools, including charter schools, to determine that a student has been immunized in accordance with state law prior to admission to school. The school nurse is responsible to review each student's immunization records to ensure that they meet state requirements.

A student whose parent or guardian fails to provide complete and accurate immunization records to the school nurse risks exclusion from school until state immunization requirements are met.

### **3.35.15 VACCINES AND EXAMINATIONS**

#### **STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES (K-12) NEED THE FOLLOWING VACCINES:**

4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td) (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)

4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given, but a 4th dose is unnecessary if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose)

2 doses of measles (usually given as MMR)

2 doses of mumps (usually given as MMR)

2 doses of rubella (German Measles) (usually given as MMR)

3 doses of hepatitis B

2 doses of varicella (Chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

#### **STUDENTS ENTERING 7TH GRADE NEED THE FOLLOWING VACCINES:**

1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade

1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MVC) on the first day of 7th grade

#### **STUDENTS ENTERING 12TH GRADE NEED THE FOLLOWING VACCINE:**

1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MVC) on the first day of 12th grade (though if one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the 12th grade dose).

On the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, unless a student has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a student must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion. If a student does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the student must receive that dose within the first five (5) days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the student must also provide a medical plan within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion. The medical plan must be followed or the student may face exclusion from school.

The school nurse will review the student's immunizations to verify the student meets the standards set by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If a student's immunization records do not meet state requirements, the student will not be permitted to attend school.

In the event that immunization is against a student's religious beliefs or a parent has a strong moral or ethical conviction against immunization, the parent must provide the school nurse with a written statement stating the reason for the objection. If immunization is not medically advisable at a particular time, a physician must sign the "Statement of Exemption to Immunization Law" form. If a student is exempt from immunization, they may be excluded from school during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

It is the school nurse's responsibility to ensure that all students have been properly immunized in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations. In the event that a student is missing the appropriate records or does not have up-to-date immunizations, the school nurse will send a letter home to notify the parent or guardian. If the up-to-date immunization records are not brought to the school within the first 5 days of school and/or there is no documentation to support that a student received the out-of-date immunizations, the student may be excluded from school.

## **SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED DENTAL AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICIAN'S AUTHORIZATION AND OTHER FORMS**

State law requires charter schools to provide the following health services for students who attend or who should attend an elementary, grade, or high school:

### **Mandated School Health Services**

Service	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Notes
School Nurse Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Maintenance of Health Records	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Immunization Assessment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Medical Examination	*	*					X			X				*Required on original entry - K or 1st Grade
Dental Examination	*	*		X				X						*Required on original entry - K or 1st Grade
Growth Screen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hearing Screen	X	X	X	X				X				X		
Scoliosis Screen							X	X						6th grade physical may be used in lieu of 6th grade screen
Tuberculin Test	*	*								X				*Required on original entry - K or 1st grade. Unless

															approved to discontinue
Vision Screen - Far Visual Acuity Test	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vision Screen - Near Visual Acuity Test	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vision Screen - Convex Lens Test (Plus Lens)		X													1st grade students meeting criteria & new students (any grade) not previously screened
Vision Screen - Color Vision Test		*	*												*1st or 2nd grade students & new students (any grade) not previously screened
Vision Screen - Stereo/Depth Perception Test		*	*												*1st or 2nd grade & new students (any grade) not

																	previously screened
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State law requires students to have updated health and dental examinations upon entering a school for the first time and at the following intervals:

- Updated dental assessments when starting 3rd and 7th grades
- Updated health assessments when starting 6th and 9th grades

Required medical and dental examinations and immunizations are oftentimes performed by the student's primary care provider. If so, the provider may use the school-provided evaluation forms, which are PA Department of Health (DOH)-approved. The School will accept the provider's own form, as long as comparable to the DOH-approved form.

If assistance is needed to fulfill medical requirements for enrollment and continued attendance, then it is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the Principal of such need. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to make sure that their students have fulfilled the necessary requirements for enrollment and continued attendance.

A doctor's authorization is also required for any of the following:

- Any medication given;
- Any controlled drug;
- Emergency medication kept on hand; i.e., inhalers, EpiPens (physician instructions required); and
- Annual update of doctor's authorization for long-term care.

Upon return to school after major surgery or hospitalization, a physician's release must be presented to the school nurse, specifying any necessary restrictions or concerns.

When a student is excused from participation in physical education for medical reasons, they must provide the school nurse with a written excuse from a doctor or their parent/guardian.

Students participating in school-sponsored athletic programs must complete a physical examination every year of participation.

We recommend that you submit a copy of updated health and dental assessments every year after your student sees their physician and/or dentist, so that the school nurse will have current information.

Please contact the school office to obtain the necessary health forms. Your student's health provider must complete the forms, which may be returned to the school nurse in person or by mail or fax.

### **3.35.20 MEDICATION**

Students are not allowed to bring any kind of prescription or over-the-counter medication to school, except for the management of Asthma, Diabetes or severe allergic reactions (see below for additional information about these exceptions). All medications should, if possible, be given by the parent/ guardian at home.

In the event that medication must be administered at school, a physician must have prescribed the medication, and arrangements must be made through the school nurse's office for the school nurse to administer the medication. The medication must be furnished by the parent/guardian, in the original container and be properly labeled, at a meeting with the school nurse. The parent/guardian and the nurse will verify the medication and the written order. The medication will be counted and documented. The parent/guardian must have the form for medication administration completed by the student's healthcare provider.

### **3.35.25 ASTHMA INHALER**

Students with asthma should bring an inhaler prescribed by their doctor to school each day in accordance with Act 187. This law permits students who, with a physician's diagnosis of asthma, medication orders, parental permission, and demonstrable responsible behavior, to carry and self-administer their own medication via an asthma inhaler. In this situation, the school nurse will communicate the exception in writing to the appropriate staff members, so they are aware that a particular student is permitted to carry their inhaler. As supported above, exceptions must be approved by the CEO, though the school nurse may make an exception on a temporary basis when unusual circumstances exist.

Tacony Academy is relieved of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication, and bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken.

As part of responsible behavior, the student must notify a staff member as soon as breathing becomes difficult, and following each use of the inhaler, the student must notify the school nurse.

The student is prohibited from making medication or any medical equipment available to other students. Any student who does so will be in violation of, and therefore subject to

discipline under, the Student Code of Conduct. Violation of school policy and procedures also may result in restriction of the student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment.

### **3.35.30 SELF MONITORING AND/OR SELF MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES**

Tacony Academy recognizes that a number of students may have medically certified diabetes requiring medication, equipment or machinery to be administered during school hours in order to maintain health and to function in the school setting.

Diabetic students may possess on their persons, including bookbags and handbags, all necessary supplies, equipment and prescribed medication to perform self-monitoring and treatment.

Upon written consent of a student's parent/guardian, the student with diabetes will be permitted to perform blood glucose checks, treat hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, and otherwise attend to the care and management of their diabetes in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity. The consent form must include a statement from the treating physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant indicating that the student has successfully demonstrated capability of independent monitoring and responsible behavior in self-administering treatment or prescribed medication.

The School is relieved of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication, and bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken.

As part of responsible behavior, the student must notify the school nurse following each use of medication or equipment for the student's diabetes-related condition. The student is prohibited from making medication or any medical equipment available to other students. Any student who does so will be in violation of, and therefore subject to discipline under, the Student Code of Conduct. Violation of school policy and procedures also may result in restriction of the student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment.

### **3.35.35 SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION**

Upon written consent of a student's parent/guardian, a student at risk for severe and life-threatening allergic reaction will be permitted to carry and self-administer Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector. The consent form must include a statement from the treating physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant indicating



that the student has successfully demonstrated capability of independent monitoring and responsible behavior in self-administering treatment or prescribed medication.

Parents/guardians of students with severe allergies are requested to provide the school nurse with an extra Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector in case of an emergency. The School is under no obligation to maintain a supply of Epipens or other epinephrine auto injectors, and is relieved of any responsibility if a student's parent/guardian has not provided the school nurse with an extra Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector for their student, or for the benefits or consequences of self-administration thereof, and bears no responsibility.

As part of responsible behavior, the student must notify the school nurse following each use of an Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector.

The student is prohibited from making the Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector available to other students. Any student who does so will be in violation of, and therefore subject to discipline under, the Student Code of Conduct. Violation of school policy and procedures also may result in restriction of the student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment.

#### **3.35.40 ILLNESS OR INFECTIOUS CONDITION**

A student may not attend school if any of the following symptoms are present or suspected by a physician or the school nurse:

Fever: Students should remain home or be sent home if they have above-normal temperature.

Conjunctivitis ("pink eye"): A student may return only after discharge discontinues and 24 hours of treatment is completed.

Rashes: Unidentified rashes must be diagnosed by a healthcare provider.

Impetigo: Your student must be seen by a healthcare provider.

Diarrhea: The student experiences diarrhea two days in a row or three times in one day.

Vomiting: The student experiences repeated forceful evacuation with other symptoms or the student's inability to eat.

Lice (see Section 3.35.45).

Ringworm (see Section 3.35.45).

Any other contagious condition: measles, chickenpox, mumps, whooping cough, or streptococcal infections that are still contagious.

In addition, a student shall not attend school if they are experiencing any unusual discomfort such as an earache or other pain that causes the student to cry or to experience significant pain.

Cooperation of parents/guardians with this policy, as mandated by state law, will minimize the number of days that students and staff are sick, thus helping to maintain a healthy learning environment.

Source: 28 Pa Code §§ 27.71 - 27.73

### **3.35.45 LICE AND RINGWORM**

Title 28, Chapter 27 of the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Regulations of Communicable and Non- Communicable Disease, governs the exclusion from school and readmitting to school students regarding infectious conditions such as lice and ringworm. If a student has been so diagnosed by a physician or is under such suspicion by the school nurse, the student will be excluded from school for the period of time until they are judged noninfectious by the school nurse or by the student's physician.

A student with lice should be treated with a lice shampoo, and the school nurse must be notified of appropriate treatment.

A student with ringworm of the body must be treated with an antifungal ointment and covered. Ringworm of the scalp requires treatment prescribed by a physician, and must be covered while at school. The school nurse must be notified of appropriate treatment.

The student will be readmitted to school if the nurse is satisfied that the live infestation is noncommunicable, or when the student presents a certificate of non-infectiousness from a physician.

### **3.35.50 BED BUGS**

While bed bugs are not known to transmit diseases, their occasional transport into school can cause annoyance. It is sometimes possible for a few bed bugs to be carried to school from a home by hiding in clothing or a backpack. Below are several steps you can take to help reduce the risk of bed bugs hitchhiking to school:

Please keep all clothes, shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, coats, homework, books and laptops away from beds and upholstered furniture.

Any items that are stored near beds or other furniture should be placed in a clear plastic bin or plastic bag until the student needs to take them outside the home.

If you suspect that these items have been in contact with beds or other furniture, please place these items in a dryer on medium-high heat for at least 20 minutes.

If any of these items can be laundered, washing and drying on the hottest settings that the fabric can safely withstand (at least 113 degrees F for at least 1 hour) is recommended to kill bed bugs. The higher the temperature, the shorter the time needed to kill bed bugs at all life stages.

Use a protective cover that encases mattresses and box springs. Check the cover regularly for holes.

Tacony Academy will help by discreetly conducting its own check of items that are brought to school if there is information or reasonable suspicion that bed bugs were carried into school. This check will be accomplished without interruption to your student's education.

### **3.35.55 ONGOING NEED FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**

If a student has any chronic health problems, parents/guardians must update their health status yearly.

There may be instances when it would be essential for the school nurse to be able to immediately contact a student's parent or guardian. It is very important that the nurse has current telephone numbers in order to contact a parent, guardian or designated person in case of an emergency.

### **3.35.60 TRANSPORTATION**

It is the responsibility of a student's parent/guardian to provide transportation home, to a doctor, or by ambulance if such a need arises. It is their responsibility to obtain medical attention unless an emergency is so serious that the student must be taken immediately from school to a doctor. In case of such an emergency, the parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible and a school employee will remain with the student until the parent/guardian arrives at the school or treatment site. The School is not responsible for any costs of emergency care or transportation.

### **3.35.65 RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER ACCIDENT**

If a student returns to school following an accident with restrictions, a physician's note outlining the restrictions must accompany the student. The student or the student's parent/guardian is required to deliver the physician's note outlining the restrictions to the school nurse on the first day the student returns to school following an accident.

### **3.35.70 HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

The purpose of homebound instruction is to provide students with some level of instructional services during a temporary period of absence so that, on return to school, they can re-engage successfully with their instructional programs.

A student may be eligible for homebound instruction if they are confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons. The term, "urgent reasons," will be strictly construed and does not permit irregular attendance. The student's condition must be temporary in nature, and the temporary condition must be anticipated to last more than four (4) weeks. Additionally, the student's need for homebound instruction must be formally documented by a physician or psychiatrist.

Any parent/guardian who wishes to enroll their student in homebound instruction should contact the school counselor.

### **3.35.75 SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

The impact of students' mental health on their academic performance and the effect of mental health issues and suicide on students and the entire school community are significant. The Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy is committed to: maintaining a safe school environment; protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students; promoting healthy development; and safeguarding against the threat or attempt of suicide among school-aged youth. Therefore, in order to ensure the safety and welfare of its students, the School will take a multi-faceted approach to educate students and staff on the actions and resources necessary to prevent suicide and promote mental well-being.

#### **Prevention and Education**

Students in grade 6 and above will receive age-appropriate lessons in their classrooms through health education or other appropriate curricula such the importance of safe and healthy choices, help seeking strategies for self and/or others, promoting a climate that encourages peer referral and emphasizes school connectedness, and addressing possible precursor problems such as depression and other mental health issues, anger, and drug use.

#### **Intervention/Prevention**

Staff, students, parents or guardians who suspect that a student may be contemplating suicide, or who becomes aware of any threat or witnesses any attempt towards self-harm that is written, drawn, spoken, or threatened, should immediately notify the

CEO, who will ensure immediate involvement of the school's crisis response team and implementation of emergency response protocols.

If an expressed suicide thought or intention is made known to member of the school community during an internship or after-school program and the CEO or other school administrator is not available, call for help:

215-686-4420 (Crisis Intervention Hotline in City and County of Philadelphia)

1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) (Crisis Services of the Treatment Advocacy Center, National Hopeline Network)

1-800-273-TALK (8255) (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Thereafter, as soon as possible, inform the CEO of the incident and actions taken.

### **3.35.80 WELLNESS POLICY**

#### **WELLNESS POLICY**

Tacony Academy recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

The Board of Trustees adopts this policy based on the recommendations of the School Health Council and in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Board of Trustees establishes that the school shall provide to students:

- A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.

- Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutrition guidelines.

- Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day.

Curriculum and programs for grades K-12 that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.

The CEO shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy to ensure each of the schools, programs and curriculum is compliant with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.

Each building principal or designee shall annually report to the CEO regarding compliance in their school.

Staff members responsible for programs related to school wellness shall report to the Principal regarding the status of such programs.

The CEO shall annually report to the Board on the school's compliance with law and policies related to school wellness. The report may include:

- Assessment of school environment regarding school wellness issues.

- Evaluation of food services program.

- Review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines.

- Listing of activities and programs conducted to promote nutrition and physical activity.

- Recommendations for policy and/or program revisions.

- Suggestions for improvement in specific areas.

- Feedback received from school staff, students, parents/guardians, community members and the Wellness Committee.

The Food Service Director and the established School Health Council shall conduct an assessment at least once every three (3) years on the contents and implementation of this policy as part of a continuous improvement process to strengthen the policy and ensure implementation. This triennial assessment shall be made available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner and include:

- The extent to which each school is in compliance with law and policies related to school wellness.

- The extent to which this policy compares to model wellness policies.

- A description of the progress made by the school in attaining the goals of this policy.

At least once every three (3) years, the school shall update or modify this policy as needed, based on the results of the most recent triennial assessment and/or as school

and community needs and priorities change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information and technologies emerge; and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued.

The school shall annually inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students and others in the community, about the contents, updates and implementation of this policy via the school website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods. This annual notification shall include information on how to access the School Wellness policy; information about the most recent triennial assessment; information on how to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the School Wellness policy; and a means of contacting School Health Council leadership.

### **Recordkeeping**

The school shall retain records documenting compliance with the requirements of the School Wellness policy, which shall include:

The written School Wellness policy.

Documentation demonstrating that the school has informed the public, on an annual basis, about the contents of the School Wellness policy and any updates to the policy.

Documentation of efforts to review and update the School Wellness policy, including who is involved in the review and methods used by the school to inform the public of their ability to participate in the review.

Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the School Wellness policy and notification of the assessment results to the public.

### **The School Health Council**

The school shall establish a School Health Council comprised of, but not necessarily limited to, at least one (1) of each of the following: Board of Trustees member, school administrator, Food School Director, student, parent/guardian, school health professional, physical education teacher and member of the public. It shall be the goal that committee membership will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

The School Health Council shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing, implementing and periodically reviewing and updating a School Wellness policy that complies with law to recommend to the Board of Trustees for adoption.

The Wellness Committee shall review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in establishing goals for nutrition education and promotion, physical activity and other school based activities that promote student wellness as part of the policy development and revision process.

The School Health Council may study student health issues and to assist in organizing follow-up programs.

The School Health Council may examine related research, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing Board policies and administrative regulations, and raise awareness about student health issues.

The School Health Council may make policy recommendations to the Board related to other health issues necessary to promote student wellness.

The School Health Council may survey parents/guardians and/or students; conduct community forums or focus groups; collaborate with appropriate community agencies and organizations; and engage in similar activities, within the budget established for these purposes.

The School Health Council shall provide periodic reports to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of its work, as required.

Individuals who conduct student medical and dental examinations shall submit to the School Health Professional annual reports and later reports on the remedial work accomplished during the year, as required by law.

## **Nutrition Education**

Nutrition education will be provided within the sequential, comprehensive health education program in accordance with curriculum regulations and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Nutrition education in the school shall teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by students. Promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement.

Nutrition education shall provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives.

Nutrition education lessons and activities shall be age-appropriate.

Nutrition curriculum shall teach behavior-focused skills, which may include menu planning, reading nutrition labels and media awareness.

School food service and nutrition education classes shall cooperate to create a learning laboratory.



Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subjects such as math, science, language arts and social sciences to complement but not replace academic standards based on nutrition education.

Lifelong lifestyle balance shall be reinforced by linking nutrition education and physical activity.

The staff responsible for providing nutrition education shall be properly trained and prepared and shall participate in appropriate professional development. The school shall develop standards for such training and professional development.

Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and the community.

#### Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs.

The school shall promote nutrition through the implementation of Farm to School activities where possible. Activities may include, but not be limited to, the initiation/maintenance of school gardens, taste-testing of local products in the cafeteria and classroom, classroom education about local agriculture and nutrition, field trips to local farms and incorporation of local foods into school meal programs.

School staff shall cooperate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition.

The Food Service Management Company, under the oversight of the Food Service Director, shall review and implement research-based, behavioral economics techniques in the cafeteria to encourage consumption of more whole grains, fruits, vegetables and legumes, and to decrease plate waste.

Consistent nutrition messages shall be disseminated and displayed throughout the schools, classrooms, cafeterias, homes, community and media.

Consistent nutrition messages shall be demonstrated by avoiding use of unhealthy food items in classroom lesson plans and school staff avoiding eating less healthy food items in front of students.

The school shall offer resources about health and nutrition to encourage parents/guardians to provide healthy meals for their children.

### **Physical Activity**

The school shall strive to provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day for all students.

The school shall contribute to the effort to provide students opportunities to accumulate at least sixty (60) minutes of age-appropriate physical activity daily,

as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opportunities offered at school will augment physical activity outside the school environment, such as outdoor play at home, sports, etc.

Students shall participate daily in a variety of age-appropriate physical activities designed to achieve optimal health, wellness, fitness and performance benefits.

Age-appropriate physical activity opportunities, such as outdoor and indoor recess, before and after school programs, during lunch, clubs, intramurals and interscholastic athletics, shall be provided to meet the needs and interests of all students, in addition to planned physical education.

A physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students shall be maintained.

Extended periods of student inactivity, two (2) hours or more, shall be discouraged.

Physical activity breaks shall be provided for students during classroom hours.

Before and/or after-school programs shall provide developmentally appropriate physical activity for participating children.

The school shall partner with parents/guardians and community members and organizations, such as YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, local and state parks, hospitals, etc., to institute programs that support lifelong physical activity.

Physical activity shall not be used or withheld as a form of punishment.

The school shall promote physical activity through encouragement of walking and biking as a means of transportation to and from school.

Students and their families shall be encouraged to utilize school-owned physical activity facilities, such as playgrounds and fields, outside school hours in accordance with established school rules.

The school will not withhold physical activities as a punishment (e.g. taking away recess)

## **Physical Education**

A sequential physical education program consistent with curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented. All school students must participate in physical education.

Quality physical education instruction that promotes lifelong physical activity and provides instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation shall be provided.

Physical education classes shall be the means through which all students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

A comprehensive physical education course of study that focuses on providing students the skills, knowledge and confidence to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity shall be implemented.

A varied and comprehensive curriculum that promotes both team and individual activities and leads to students becoming and remaining physically active for a lifetime shall be provided in the physical education program.

Adequate amounts of planned instruction shall be provided in order for students to achieve the proficient level for the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.

A local assessment system shall be implemented to track student progress on the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.

Students shall be moderately to vigorously active as much time as possible during a physical education class. Documented medical conditions and disabilities shall be accommodated during class.

Safe and adequate equipment, facilities and resources shall be provided for physical education courses.

Physical education shall be taught by certified health and physical education teachers.

Appropriate professional development shall be provided for physical education staff.

Physical education classes shall have a teacher-student ratio comparable to those of other courses for safe and effective instruction.

Physical activity shall not be used or withheld solely as a form of punishment.

### **Other School Based Activities**

Safe drinking water shall be available and accessible to students, without restriction and at no cost to the student, at all meal periods and throughout the school day.

Nutrition professionals who meet hiring criteria established by the school and in compliance with federal regulations shall administer the school meals program. Professional development and continuing education shall be provided for school nutrition staff, as required by federal regulations.

The school shall provide adequate space, as defined by the school, for eating and serving school meals.

Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.

Students shall be provided adequate time to eat: ten (10) minutes sit down time for breakfast; twenty (20) minutes sit down time for lunch.

The school shall implement alternative service models to increase school breakfast participation where possible, such as breakfast served in the

classroom, “grab & go breakfast” and breakfast after first period to reinforce the positive educational, behavioral and health impacts of a healthy breakfast.

Meal periods shall be scheduled at appropriate hours, as required by federal regulations and as defined by the school.

Students shall have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals and snacks.

Access to the food service operation shall be limited to authorized staff.

Nutrition content of school meals shall be available to students and parents/guardians.

Students and parents/guardians may be involved in menu selections through various means, such as taste testing and surveys.

To the extent possible, the school shall utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.

The school shall provide appropriate training to all staff on the components of the School Wellness policy.

Goals of the School Wellness policy shall be considered in planning all school based activities.

Fundraising projects submitted for approval shall be supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.

Administrators, teachers, food service personnel, students, parents/guardians and community members shall be encouraged to serve as positive role models through school programs, communications and outreach efforts.

The school support the efforts of parents/guardians to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for children by communicating relevant information through various methods.

The school shall maintain a healthy school environment, including air quality, to optimize conditions for learning and minimize potential health risks to students, in accordance with the school environmental health program and applicable laws and regulations.

### **Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods/Beverages at School**

All foods and beverages available in school during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing obesity.

Foods and beverages provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with established federal nutrition standards.

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day, such as athletic events and dances, shall offer healthy alternatives in addition to more traditional fare.

### *Competitive Foods –*

Competitive foods available for sale shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). These standards shall apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold to students, which may include, but are not limited to: a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack carts and fundraisers.

**Competitive foods** are defined as foods and beverages offered or sold to students on school campus during the school day, which are not part of the reimbursable school breakfast or lunch.

For purposes of this policy, school campus means any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that students may access during the school day.

For purposes of this policy, school day means the period from midnight before school begins until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day.

The school may impose additional restrictions on competitive foods, provided that the restrictions are not inconsistent with federal requirements.

### *Fundraiser Exemptions –*

Fundraising activities held during the school day involving the sale of competitive foods shall be limited to foods that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, unless an exemption is approved in accordance with applicable Board policy and administrative regulations.

The school may allow a limited number of exempt fundraisers as permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education each school year: up to five (5) exempt fundraisers in elementary and middle school buildings, and up to ten (10) exempt fundraisers in high school buildings. **Exempt fundraisers** are fundraisers in which competitive foods are available for sale to students that do not meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

The school shall establish administrative regulations to implement fundraising activities in schools, including procedures for requesting a fundraiser exemption.

### *Non-Sold Competitive Foods –*

Non-sold competitive foods available to students, which may include but are not limited to foods and beverages offered as rewards and incentives, at classroom parties and

celebrations, or as shared classroom snacks, shall meet or exceed the standards established by the school.

If the offered competitive foods do not meet or exceed the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, the following standards shall apply:

Rewards and Incentives: (CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW)

Foods and beverages shall not be used as a reward or incentive in schools.

Foods and beverages shall not be used as a reward for classroom or school activities unless the reward is an activity that promotes a positive nutrition message (e.g., guest chef, field trip to a farm or farmers market, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ other.

Classroom Parties and Celebrations: (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW)

Only non-food based parties and celebrations shall occur on the school campus during the school day in schools.

Classroom parties/celebrations with food/beverages shall be limited to no more than one (1) per month in each classroom.

Parents/Guardians shall be informed through newsletters or other efficient communication methods that foods/beverages should only be brought in when requested for scheduled parties.

Classroom parties shall offer a minimal amount of foods (maximum 2-3 items) containing added sugar as the primary ingredient (e.g., cupcakes, cookies) and will provide the following:

Fresh fruits/vegetables; and

Water, 100 percent juice, 100 percent juice diluted with water, low-fat milk or nonfat milk.

When possible, foods/beverages for parties and celebrations shall be provided by the food service department to help prevent food safety and allergy concerns.

Food celebrations shall not occur until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the last lunch period.

\_\_\_\_\_ other.

Shared Classroom Snacks: (CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW)

Shared classroom snacks are not permitted in schools.

\_\_\_\_\_ other.

The school shall provide a list of suggested nonfood ideas and healthy food and beverage alternatives to parents/guardians and staff, which may be posted via the

school website, student handbook, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods.

### *Marketing/Contracting –*

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School) and comply with established Board policy and administrative regulations.

Exclusive competitive food and/or beverage contracts shall be approved by the Board, in accordance with provisions of law. Existing contracts shall be reviewed and modified to the extent feasible to ensure compliance with established federal nutrition standards, including applicable marketing restrictions.

### **Management of Food Allergies in Schools**

The school shall establish Board policy and administrative regulations to address food allergy management in schools in order to:

- Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.

- Ensure a rapid and effective response in case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

- Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

### **Safe Routes to School**

- The school shall assess and, to the extent possible, implement improvements to make walking and biking to school safer and easier for students.

- The school shall cooperate with local municipalities, public safety agency, police departments and community organizations to develop and maintain safe routes to school.

- School administrators shall seek and utilize available federal and state funding for safe routes to school, when appropriate.

### References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 504.1, 701, 742, 1337.1, 1422, 1422.1, 1422.3, 1512.1, 1513

National School Lunch Program – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751 et seq.

School Breakfast Program – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1773

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 – P.L. 111-296

National Food Service Programs, Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations – 7 CFR Part 210, Part 220