

# Gateway Science Academy

## District Wellness Policy

The Gateway Science Academy (GSA) Board promotes healthy schools, by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning environment. The Board supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. Schools contribute to the basic health status of children by facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. Improved health optimizes student performance potential. The goals of the GSA's wellness policy are as follows:

### **1. Provide a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors.**

The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs, and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity. A healthy school environment should not be sacrificed because of a dependence on revenue from high added fat, high added sugar, and low nutrient foods to support school programs.

### **2. Support and promote proper dietary habits contributing to student's health status and academic performance.**

All foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities during the instructional day should meet or exceed the district nutrition standards. Emphasis should be placed on foods that are nutrient dense per calorie. To ensure high quality, nutritious meals, foods should be served with consideration toward variety, appeal, taste, safety, and packaging.

### **3. Provide more opportunities for students to engage in physical activity.**

A quality physical education program is an essential component for all students to learn about and participate in physical activity. Physical activity should be included in a school's daily education program from grades K through 12. Physical activity should include regular instructional physical education, co-curricular activities, and recess.

### **4. The District is committed to improve academic performance.**

Educators, administrators, parents, health practitioners, and communities should consider the critical role student health plays in academic stamina and performance and adapt the school environment to ensure students' basic nourishment and activity needs are met. To ensure widespread understanding of the benefits to school environments where nutritious foods are provided and where students have an opportunity for physical activity, a public awareness campaign that highlights research demonstrating the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity, and capacity of students to develop and learn should be conducted.

## **5. Establish and maintain a district-wide Nutrition & Physical Activity Advisory Council with the purposes of:**

- Developing guidance to this policy
- Monitoring the implementation of this policy
- Evaluating policy progress
- Serving as a resource to school sites
- Revising policy as necessary

### **1. Advisory Committee**

A School-wide Nutrition & Physical Activity Advisory Committee will be established. The Committee would meet a minimum of two times annually. Any existing School Health Advisory Council will serve as the nucleus for the Committee. The Committee will include members as specified by law. Responsibility of the Nutrition & Physical Activity Advisory Council may include, but not be limited to, oversight of the following:

- Implementation of School nutrition and physical activity standards
- Integration of nutrition and physical activity in the overall curriculum
- Assurance that staff professional development includes nutrition and physical activity issues
- Assurance that students receive nutrition education and engage in vigorous physical activity

The Nutrition & Physical Activity Advisory Committee will be responsible for preparing a report that includes, but is not limited to, the following information:

- Monthly School menus and meal counts
- Listing of all a la carte, vending, and competitive foods sold by school food service
- Listing of all other sales of foods throughout the School including vending machines, school stores, culinary, and special education programs, in-school and in-class fundraisers, etc.
- Listing of physical activity programs and opportunities for students throughout the school year.
- Outcomes of Committee activities.

### **2. Student Nutrition**

#### **The School Breakfast/Lunch Programs:**

- The full meal school breakfast and lunch programs will continue to follow the USDA Requirements for Federal School Meals Programs.
- The School Food Service Program will follow the School's Nutrition Standards when determining the items in a la carte and "competitive foods" sales.
- The Food and Service Coordinator must work closely with the Nutrition & Physical Activity Advisory Committee.

#### **Cafeteria Environment:**

- A cafeteria environment that provides students with a relaxed, enjoyable climate that shall be developed
- The cafeteria is a place where students have an adequate space to eat in clean, pleasant surroundings

- Adequate time to eat meals
- Convenient access to hand washing or hand sanitizing facilities before meals
- When possible recess time will be provided for elementary students before lunch.

### **Fundraising:**

All fundraising projects for sale and consumption of food items within and prior to the instructional day will follow the School's Nutrition Standards when determining the items being sold.

### **3. Student Nutrition Education:**

The School has a comprehensive approach to nutrition in Kindergarten through 12th grade. All K-12 instructional staff will be encouraged to integrate nutritional themes into daily lessons when appropriate. The health benefits of good nutrition should be emphasized. Lessons will focus on skills and positive aspects of healthy eating. The School nutrition policy reinforces nutrition education to help students practice these themes in a supportive school environment.

### **Parent Nutrition Education:**

Nutrition education may be provided in the forms of handouts, postings on the School website, articles and information provided in School or school newsletters, presentations that focus on nutritional value and healthy lifestyles, and through any other appropriate means available for reaching parents.

### **Staff Nutrition & Physical Activity Education:**

Nutrition and physical activity education opportunities will be provided to all schools staff at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. These educational opportunities may include, but not be limited to, the distribution of educational and informational materials and the arrangement of presentations and workshops that focus on nutritional and healthy lifestyles, health assessments, fitness activities, and other appropriate nutrition and physical activity-related topics.

### **4. School Nutrition Standards**

The School strongly encourages the sale or distribution of nutrient dense foods for all school functions and activities. Nutrient dense foods are those foods that provide students with calories rich in the nutrient content needed to be healthy. In an effort to support the consumption of nutrient dense foods in the school setting, the School has adopted the following nutrition standards governing the sale of food, beverage, and candy on school grounds. Schools are encouraged to study these standards and develop building policy using the following School Nutrition Standards as minimal guidelines.

### **Food:**

- Encourage the consumption of nutrient dense foods, i.e. WHOLE GRAINS, FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES, and DAIRY PRODUCTS.
- Any given food item for sale prior to the start of the school day and throughout the instructional day, will have no more than 35% of its total calories derived from fat.

- Any given food item for sale prior to the start of the school day and throughout the instructional day, will generally have no more than 10% of its total calories derived from saturated fat.
- Nuts and seeds with minimal added fat in processing (no more than 3 grams of added fat per 1.75 ounce or less package size) are exempt from these standards because they are nutrient dense and contain high levels of monounsaturated fat.

**Candy:**

- Candy is defined as any processed food item that has: a. Sugar (including brown sugar, corn sweetener, corn syrup, fructose, glucose (dextrose), high fructose corn syrup, invert sugar, lactose, maltose, molasses, raw sugar, table sugar (sucrose), syrup) is listed as one of the first two ingredients AND sugar is more than 35% of the item by weight.

**5. Student Physical Activity**

**School Physical Activity Goal:**

The School shall provide physical activity and physical education opportunities that provides students with the knowledge and skills to lead a physically active lifestyle. The School shall utilize the following Implementation Strategies:

1. Physical education classes and physical activity opportunities will be available to all students.
2. Physical activity opportunities shall be offered daily before school, during school (recess), or after school.
3. As recommended by the National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), school leaders of physical activity and physical education shall guide students through a process that will enable them to achieve and maintain a high level of personal fitness through the following:
  - Expose youngsters to a wide variety of physical activities
  - Teach physical skills to help maintain a lifetime of health and fitness
  - Encourage self-monitoring so youngsters can see how active they are and set their own goals
  - Individualize intensity of activities
  - Focus feedback on process of doing your best rather than on product
  - Be active role models
4. Introduce developmentally appropriate components of a health-related assessment to the students at an early age to prepare them for future assessments.
5. Physical education classes shall be sequential, building from year to year, and content will include movement, personal fitness, and personal and social responsibility. Students should be able to demonstrate competency through application of knowledge, skill, and practice