

EDUCATION EQUITY

Code **ACB** Issued **4/21**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for ensuring an equitable education is offered to all students.

The board is committed to the provision of an equitable education system reflected in the educational opportunities offered to all students regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability, and/or other characteristics, as well as the intersection of these characteristics. The board prioritizes educational equity through the allocation of resources based upon individual student needs. As such, the district will identify and address barriers that cultivate achievement and/or opportunity gaps for students.

The superintendent or his/her designee will use quantitative and qualitative district-wide and school-level data to systematically assess which students and/or student groups are experiencing the least achievement, determine the academic needs, and target resources and efforts to address identified needs and improve overall outcomes. The data may include anecdotal information from staff members, as well as formally collected and reported data. Data will be disaggregated and intersected, where feasible, based on available demographics.

In the pursuit of educational equity for students, district programs, operations, and functions will be structured to prioritize the following guiding principles:

- The district will provide multiple pathways to success to meet the needs of the diverse student body and will actively encourage, support, and expect high academic achievement and excellence from each student.
- Students will be encouraged and provided opportunities to pursue their goals and interests, to enroll in challenging programs, and to participate in school activities and interscholastic athletics without regard to biases or discrimination. Students' educational achievement will neither be predicted nor predetermined by explicit bias (intentional actions, attitudes, and beliefs about a person or group) or implicit biases (actions, attitudes, or stereotypes that affect understanding, actions, and decisions in a subconscious manner).
- Students will be provided equitable access to instructional materials, assessments, curriculum, support, facilities, and other educational resources and services that reflect an appreciation for the diverse cultural perspectives, identities, and the needs of students by strategically differentiating allocations as necessary to remove barriers and improve outcomes.
- The district's curriculum will promote equity and respect, reflect the distinctive contributions of a diverse society, embed culturally responsive teaching and practices, and provide opportunities for staff members and students to interact effectively with individuals from other cultures.
- The district will promote a diverse workforce by maintaining an employment process that is free of discrimination and bias; by identifying and addressing barriers to the recruitment, hiring, retention, development, and promotion of district employees from diverse backgrounds; and by actively recruiting and promoting candidates who are committed to educational equity.
- The district will provide professional development opportunities regarding cultural competency and proficiency that foster the skills and knowledge to cultivate equity and to create a learning environment that is student-centered and meets the individual and diverse needs of students.

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- The district will create a welcoming, inclusive, and bias-free culture and environment that values, reflects, and is responsive to the diversity of students, families, and the community. Respectful and civil discourse and interactions among staff members, students, families, and community members is expected at all times.
- The district will review policies, procedures, programs, professional development, and budget allocations with an equity lens.

Staff members will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the principles of this policy. The superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to develop an action plan and procedures in accordance with these principles.

Adopted 4/26/2021

DISTRICT WELLNESS

Code **ADF** Issued **4/21**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for promoting student wellness and proper nutrition for students.

The district recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The district is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular and 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.

Food and Beverage Availability

The district is committed to serving healthy meals to students, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams trans fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their ~~calorie~~ caloric requirements. The school meal programs aim 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.

All schools within the district participate in USDA child nutrition programs through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and are committed to offering school meals 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

Students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade will be provided a minimum of 20 minutes to consume lunch after they have received their food.

Schools will ~~not~~ use foods or beverages that meet the Health, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) requirements, as rewards for academic performance or good behavior. Additionally, schools will not withhold food or beverages as punishment. Teachers are provided with a list of alternative ideas for behavior management.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. The district will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Outside foods

To ensure student safety regarding food allergies and dietary restrictions, food brought from outside the school for student consumption will be commercially prepared and packaged or sealed. When applicable, food will be labeled with specific ingredients or the ingredients will be

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easily accessible online. However, this policy does not restrict food that a parent/legal guardian may provide for his/her child's consumption at school.

Competitive foods and beverages

The district is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on school campuses during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold outside of the school meal programs (e.g., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. See administrative rule EFE-R, Competitive Foods Sales/Vending Machines, for more information. The district will establish standards for foods made available, but not sold, during the school day on school campuses.

All foods that meet the competitive food standards may be sold at fundraisers on the school campus during school hours. The number of fundraisers exempt from the nutrition requirements will be determined by the South Carolina State Board of Education (see administrative rule EFE-R).

District Goals for Health and Wellness

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. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents/legal guardians, students, and the community.

The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus and will encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through the use of evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques and through adherence to a policy of 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meeting the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Nutrition education

The district will teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that fulfills the following criteria:

- fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors such as acquiring skills for reading food labels and menu planning
- is part of a sequential comprehensive standards-based health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health
- 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, and other school foods and nutrition-related community services

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- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing
- includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff

See policy IHAM, Health Education, for more information.

Physical activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program which includes quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during, and after school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement. Schools may promote opportunities for physical activity via in school announcements, newsletters, posters, etc. The district is committed to providing these opportunities, and schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education.

The district encourages the use of physical activity as a reward when feasible. Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks, or physical education) will not be withheld as punishment for any reason. **This does not include participation on sports teams or with other sports-related after school activities, nor does it include participation on sports teams with specific academic requirements.**

Nurses

Spartanburg County School District Five will provide a registered nurse to staff the health room in each of the schools in order to provide health services for all students.

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 and incorporate essential health education concepts. The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education. See policy IHAE, Physical Education, for more information.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education 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.

Staff wellness and health promotion

The district wellness committee may have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources, and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff. Schools in the district will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

Professional learning

The district follows the USDA Professional Standards for State and Local Nutrition Programs to ensure professional development in the area of food and nutrition is provided for all food service employees, including directors, managers, and staff.

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District Wellness Committee/Coordinated District Health Advisory Council

The district will convene a wellness committee that meets at least once per year to establish district wellness goals for and to oversee school health and safety policies and programs including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. Wellness committee members will include, to the extent possible, parents/legal guardians, students, representatives of district nutrition services, physical education teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public. The designated officer for ensuring district compliance with the wellness policy and oversight of the committee will be the Assistant Superintendent.

Annually, the district will notify the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and share any updates to the policy. The district will also publicize the name and contact information of the Assistant Superintendent with information on how the public can become involved with the wellness committee or obtain additional information on the wellness policy. The information for this annual review can be gathered through and utilized in the district's strategic planning process.

Every three years, the district will assess its compliance with the policy, how it compares to model wellness policies published by state and federal agencies, and the district's progress in attaining the goals of the policy. The results of this assessment will be made available to the public to showcase the wellness efforts being made by the district and how each school is in compliance with the wellness policy. Following this assessment, the district will update or modify the policy as necessary and share these changes with the public.

Recordkeeping

The district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. Documentation maintained by the district will include but will not be limited to:

- the written wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public
- documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the district wellness committee (e.g., copy of meeting notice posted on the district website)
- documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements
- the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy has been made available to the public

Food and Beverage Marketing

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. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on district property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the district is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the district to protect and promote students' 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.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on school campuses during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards such that

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only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students. These standards do not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting events or any other events, including school fundraisers.

Contracts for goods or services that include a food and beverage marketing component executed after June 30, 2017, must conform to federal nutrition standards. No exceptions will be granted.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing includes any oral, written, or graphic statements 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. This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- brand names, trademarks, logos, or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container
- displays, such as on vending machine exteriors
- corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment that is displayed during the school day, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards, or backboards
- corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books, or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered, or sold by the district
- advertisements in school publications or school mailings
- free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product

Adopted 6/12/17

Legal References:

A. Federal Law:

1. Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-296, 124 Stat. 3183.

B. Federal Regulations:

1. National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Goods Sold in School, 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220 (2016).
2. Local School Wellness Policy Implementation, 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220 (2016).

C. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-10-10, *et seq.* - Physical education, school health services, and nutritional standards.
2. Section 59-10-330 - Coordinated School Health Advisory Council (CSHAC).
3. Section 59-10-350 - Length of elementary school lunch period.
4. Section 59-32-30(A)(1)-(3) - Comprehensive health education program; guidelines and restrictions.

D. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-168 - Nutrition standards for elementary (K-5) school food service meals and competitive foods.
2. R43-238 - Health education requirements.

E. State Board of Education Academic Standards:

1. 2009 Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education.
2. 2014 SC Academic Standards for Physical Education.

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3. 2015 SC “Smart Snacks” and Exempt Fundraisers Memorandum.

F. Other References:

1. National Standards for Physical Education, NASPE (National Association for Sport and Physical Education).
2. National Health Education Standards, Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards.
3. USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
4. USDA *Guide to Smart Snacks in School* (2016).
5. USDA Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs (2015).

EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION/REIMBURSEMENT

Code **DKC** Issued **4/21**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for authorizing and reimbursing expenses for district employees and board members.

The district will reimburse board members and employees for expenses incurred in approved travel for the district, such as approved attendance at conferences and other authorized expenses necessary in performing their duties. The superintendent must approve all overnight and out of state employee travel. All other travel must be approved by the principal or immediate supervisor. Reimbursement for using a personal vehicle for official district business will be on a per mile basis equal to the rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service for business use of an automobile ~~as of July 1 of that fiscal year~~.

Board members and employees must submit their expenses on official vouchers.

The district will provide advanced funding only under special circumstances when approved by the superintendent or his/her designee. If advanced funds are received, the recipient must submit a second voucher (documenting expenditures and advanced revenue) and refund the difference or request additional funds.

If cancellations are necessary due to avoidable circumstances by the board member or employee, the employee or board member may be responsible for reimbursing the district for monies not refundable. The requirement for an employee to reimburse the district is made at the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee. The requirement for a board member to reimburse the district is made at the discretion of the board.

Adopted 3/22/93; Revised 7/1/00, 6/25/12, 4/26/21

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

Code **JICH** Issued **4/21**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the board's prohibition of student drug and alcohol use.

No student will do the following.

- knowingly or intentionally possess or distribute on school premises, school buses or at official school functions narcotic drugs, marijuana, depressants, stimulants or hallucinogenic drugs, any counterfeit drugs, imitation controlled substances, "lookalike" substances, synthetic drugs, and any substance that is represented to be or is substantially similar in color, shape, size or markings to a prohibited substance, or other controlled substances unless obtained from or pursuant to a valid prescription or ordered by a practitioner
- knowingly or intentionally possess or distribute on school premises, school buses or at official school functions beer, wine or distilled liquors
- possess or distribute on school premises, school buses or at official school functions any uncontrolled medicine or prescribed medicine without reporting the fact of possession to the principal or homeroom teacher upon arrival at school; the amount of any uncontrolled medicine or prescribed medicine may be limited by the principal and/or homeroom teacher

The district will suspend any person who violates the first two bullets above and the principal ~~will~~ may recommend expulsion for the remainder of the school year. In lieu of an expulsion recommendation, administration may refer a student, at the parent's expense, to a treatment program at a local accredited facility approved by the district. The student must make satisfactory progress toward completing the program. Any person who violates the third bullet above may be suspended or expelled or subject to such other lesser penalty as will be determined to be appropriate.

Students who come to school or any school function in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of alcohol or drugs or conduct themselves in a disorderly or boisterous manner may be arrested for a misdemeanor under Section 16-17-530, S.C. Code, as well as suspended and/or expelled from school.

If a student violates this alcohol or drug use policy, the principal will contact the parent/legal guardian and the local police and suspend the student from school. Any alcohol or drugs taken from a student will be turned over to the police.

Students who are addicted to or dependent upon a controlled substance may seek advice concerning such problems and obtain treatment without fear of arrest or being reported to law enforcement authorities.

Adopted 8/2/75; Revised 9/28/81, 4/25/94, 6/29/98, 10/24/11, 3/25/13

Legal references:

- I. Alcohol:
 - A. S.C. Constitution:
 1. Article XVII, Section 14 - Must be over 21 to possess distilled liquors.

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B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 16-17-530 - Students who come to school in an intoxicated condition, or conduct themselves in a disorderly or boisterous manner, could be arrested for a misdemeanor.
2. Section 59-67-150 - Drinking alcoholic liquors on a school bus is prohibited.

II. Drugs:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 44-49-80 - Establishment of drug abuse treatment program in public schools.
2. Section 44-53-110, et seq. - Definitions; lists of illicit drugs.
3. Section 44-53-140 - Certain communications and observations shall be privileged.
4. Section 44-53-160 - Manner in which changes must be made to schedules of controlled substances.
5. Section 44-53-190 - Substances added to Schedule 1 controlled substances.
6. Section 44-53-370 - Prohibited Acts A; penalties.
7. Section 44-53-440 - Distribution to persons under 18.