

Quality nutrition education, which is presented creatively and is grade appropriate builds knowledge and skills throughout the child's school experience. It addresses factual information and explores the health, social, cultural and personal issues influencing food choices. Nutrition and nutrition education are recognized as important contributors to overall health.

Comprehensive nutrition education programs extend beyond the classroom unto the larger school environment. The school cafeteria serves as a laboratory where students apply critical thinking skills taught in the classroom. Physical education programs, after school sports and school health services are appropriate avenues for nutrition education efforts. Students need to explore how:

1. knowledge has purpose and meaning in their lives and
2. curriculum points to the connection within and across disciplines.

Examples of how nutrition can be integrated into classes are: discussing ethnic food practices in the context of history and geography; preparation of healthy food in home economics, adult living, or life skills courses; the study of essential nutrients in science and biology classes applying mathematical and technological skills to conduct dietary analysis; and addressing the wide range of social, cultural and psychological aspects of food in language and social studies classrooms.

The District has a comprehensive curriculum approach to nutrition in kindergarten through grade level. All instructional staff is encouraged to integrate nutritional themes into daily lessons when appropriate. The health benefits of good nutrition should be emphasized. These nutritional themes include but are not limited to:

1. Knowledge of My Plate
2. Healthy choices to decrease illness;
3. Sources and variety of foods;
4. Guide to a healthy diet;
5. Diet and disease;
6. Understanding calories and food as energy;
7. Healthy snacks;
8. Healthy breakfast;
9. Healthy diet
10. Food labels;
11. Major nutrients;
12. Multicultural influences;
13. Serving sizes by age, gender, and activity level;
14. Proper sanitation
15. Importance of fluid intake and selection;
16. Identify and limiting low nutrition food.

The District nutrition policy reinforces nutrition education to help students practice these themes in a supportive school environment.

All nutrition education will be scientifically based, consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Nutrition education will be offered in the school cafeteria as well as in the classroom, with coordination between school foodservice staff and teachers. Teachers can display posters, videos, websites, and etc. on nutritional topics and send materials home to involve parents.

Participation in USDA nutrition programs is encouraged as the district conducts nutrition education activities and promotions that involve students, parents, and the community. The school nutrition team responsible for these activities will be composed of child nutrition services staff; student services staff, school nurse, health teachers, and physical education coaches.

School Community

For a truly comprehensive approach to the school-based nutrition program and services, it is critical that all members of the school community help to create an environment that supports healthy eating practices. Administrators, teachers, school foodservice and other personnel, parents and students need to be involved in this effort. Decisions made in all school programming need to reflect and encourage positive nutrition messages and healthy food choices. This includes coordination of nutrition education with the cafeteria and the promotion of healthy food choices in the cafeteria and all school events.

Local Community

The effectiveness of school-based nutrition programs and services can be enhanced by outreach efforts in the surrounding community. Personnel should be familiar with the health and nutritional resources available through the town and local agencies. Contacts should be made with the health department, community nutrition programs, health centers, local food pantries and fitness programs. Once contact has been established, collaborative efforts should be made with other community agencies to positively influence the health and nutritional status of school-age children.

Schools will work with a variety of media to spread the word to the community about a healthy school nutrition environment, such as the local newspaper, school newsletter and school website.

Parent Involvement

The District will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The district will offer healthy eating seminars for parents, send home nutritional information, post nutritional tips on school websites, and provide

nutrient analysis of school menus. Schools should encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the district’s nutritional standards for individual foods and beverages. Celebrations that involve food during the school day shall be limited to no more than one party per class per month. No more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for Smart Snacks in Schools may be served at such parties. The District will provide parents a list of foods that meet the District’s snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities. In addition, the district will provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community.

The District will provide physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during and after the school day; and support parents’ efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such support will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

Parents are to be advised that their children are participating in a nutrition education or counseling experience, encouraging their support at home. Parent involvement can be in person or through communication sent to the home.

1. Nutrition education will be provided to parents beginning at the elementary level. The goal will be to continue to educate parents throughout the middle and high school levels;
2. Healthy eating and physical activity will be actively promoted to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community at registration, SOS meetings, Open Houses, Health Fairs, teacher in-services, etc; and
3. Nutrition education from evidence-based sources (such as USDA’s Team Nutrition and My Plate) may be provided in the form of handouts, postings on the District website, or presentations at open houses that focus on nutritional value and healthy lifestyles.



ISBA Cross Reference: 8200 Health Lifestyles, 8230 District Nutrition Standards

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections 33-512

42 USC § 1758b, Section 204 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

7 CFR § 210.30 Local School Wellness Policy

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