

# Great Oaks Academy

## Wellness Policy No. 533

### I. Introduction

All school districts that participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Act) to have a wellness policy that includes standards and nutrition guidelines for foods and beverages made available to students on campus during the school day, as well as specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The Act requires the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The Act also requires a plan for measuring implementation of the policy and reporting wellness policy content and implementation issues to the public, as well as the designation of at least one person charged with responsibility for the implementation and oversight of the wellness policy to ensure the school district is in compliance with the policy.

### II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth methods that promote student wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and assure that school meals and other food and beverages sold and otherwise made available on the school campus during the school day are consistent with applicable minimum local, state, and federal standards.

### III. General Statement of Policy

- A. Great Oaks Academy recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and learning.
- B. The school environment should promote students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
- C. Great Oaks Academy encourages the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, the Board of Directors, school administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of GOA's wellness policy.
- D. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.
- E. All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- F. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; will try to

accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will try to provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

#### IV. Wellness Goals

The Act requires that wellness policies include goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.

##### A. Nutrition Promotion and Education

1. Great Oaks Academy will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health; and
2. Great Oaks Academy will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages.

##### B. Physical Activity

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health and physical education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities, such as watching television or sitting at computer;
2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and
3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

##### C. Communications with Parents

1. Great Oaks Academy recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary role in promoting their children's health and well-being.
2. Great Oaks Academy will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
3. Great Oaks Academy encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.
4. Great Oaks Academy will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

## V. STANDARDS AND NUTRITION GUIDELINES

The Act requires that school districts have standards, selected by the school district, for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. For foods and beverages sold to students during the school day on school campus, the Act requires that school districts also have nutrition guidelines.

- A. School Meals: The Act specifically requires that the wellness policy contain standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day that are consistent with the meal requirements for lunches and afterschool snacks set forth in 7 C.F.R. § 210.10 and the meal requirements for breakfasts set forth in 7 C.F.R. § 220.8.

1. Great Oaks Academy will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.
2. Food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.
3. Food service personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning.
4. Food service personnel will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
5. Food service personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meets or exceeds all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations and that reimbursable school meals meet USDA nutrition standards.
6. Food service personnel shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
7. Great Oaks Academy will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.
8. Great Oaks Academy will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
9. Great Oaks Academy will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.

- B. School Food Service Program/Personnel

1. Great Oaks Academy shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the school district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made

available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.

2. As part of its responsibility to operate a food service program, Great Oaks Academy will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel.
3. Before and Aftercare (childcare) programs will comply with the school district's nutrition standards unless they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in which case they will comply with all applicable USDA standards.

C. Other Foods and Beverages Made Available to Students

1. Student wellness will be a consideration for all foods offered, but not sold, to students on the school campus, including those foods provided through:
  - a) Celebrations and parties. Great Oaks Academy will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including nonfood celebration ideas.
  - b) Classroom snacks brought by parents. Great Oaks Academy will provide to parents a list of suggested foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.
2. Rewards and incentives. Great Oaks Academy will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior (unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan or behavior intervention plan) and will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.
3. Fundraising. The school district will make available to parents and teachers a list of suggested healthy fundraising ideas.

D. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

1. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.
2. Great Oaks Academy will restrict food and beverages marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

VI. WELLNESS LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- A. Wellness Coordinator: The Act requires that local school wellness policies identify the position of the local education agency or school official(s) responsible for the implementation and oversight of the local school wellness policy.

1. The Executive Director will designate a Great Oaks Academy employee to oversee the school's wellness-related activities (Wellness Coordinator). The Wellness Coordinator will ensure that the school implements this policy.

2. The Executive Director will ensure compliance within the school and will report to the Wellness Coordinator regarding compliance matters upon request.
- B. Public Involvement: The Act requires a description of the manner in which parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public are provided an opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the local school wellness policy.
1. The Wellness Coordinator will engage parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, Board of Directors, school administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy.
  2. The Wellness Coordinator will hold meetings periodically for the purpose of discussing the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the school's website and will be open to the public.

## VII. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- A. Implementation and Publication: The Act requires a description of the plan for measuring the implementation of the local school wellness policy.
1. After approval by the Board of Directors, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school.
  2. Great Oaks Academy will post its wellness policy on its website.
- B. Annual Reporting: The Wellness Coordinator will annually inform the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public.
- C. Triennial Assessment: The Act requires a triennial assessment of schools' compliance with the wellness policy. The Act also requires school districts to inform the public about progress toward meeting the goals of the wellness policy by making the triennial assessment available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner.
1. At least once every three years, Great Oaks Academy will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and create a report that includes the following information:
    - a) the extent to which Great Oaks Academy is in compliance with the wellness policy;
    - b) the extent to which GOA's wellness policy compares to model local wellness policies; and

- c) A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of GOA's wellness policy.
  2. The Wellness Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the triennial assessment.
  3. The triennial assessment report shall be posted on GOA's website or otherwise made available to the public.
- D. Recordkeeping: Great Oaks Academy will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. The records to be retained include, but are not limited to:
1. GOA's written wellness policy.
  2. Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public.
  3. Documentation of the triennial assessment of Great Oaks Academy's efforts to review and update the wellness policy (including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods GOA uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the Wellness Committee).

**Legal References:**