

PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124



LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY

Updated May 7, 2026

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Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools' efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future.

Wellness Policy Committee

Wellness Policy Leadership

Ryan Linnig, Superintendent

Megan Baltikauski, NSLP Administrator

Wellness Policy Committee Members

Toni Moss, Food Service Director

Kate Kolczaski, Physical Education Teacher

Tara Backes, Athletic Director

Simon Kampwerth, School Board Member

Molly Leone, Parent Representative

Kim Lamps, School Nurse

Brent Ziegler, Parkside Principal

Wellness Policy Committee Responsibilities

Public Involvement

The Local Education Agency permits and encourages public involvement in Local Wellness Policy development, implementation, updates, and reviews. Therefore, the LEA shall invite a variety of stakeholders within the general public to participate in Local Wellness Policy processes. The following methods of communication will be utilized to notify the general public of the opportunity to participate in these processes:

- www.perued.net
- Letters

Assessments

Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Peru Elementary School District 124 shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every three years, beginning in 2014 and occurring every three years thereafter. These assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy is in compliance with USDA, State, and Local rules and regulations.
- Compare the LEA's wellness policy to model wellness policies
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in the LEA's wellness policy.

Updates

The Wellness Policy Committee must update the Local Wellness Policy as appropriate in order to fit the needs and goals of the Local Education Agency. The LEA shall make the following available to the public:

- The Local Wellness Policy, including any updates to the policy, on a yearly basis.
- The triennial assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the wellness policy.

Through the following channels:

- www.perued.net
- The Board Policy Manual

Records

The Local Education Agency shall maintain record of the Local Wellness Policy. This includes keeping a copy of the current wellness policy on file and maintaining documentation of the following actions:

- The most recent assessment of the policy.
- Availability of the wellness policy and assessments to the public.
- Reviews and revisions of the policy, including the individuals involved and the efforts made to notify stakeholders of their ability to participate in the process.

Nutrition

The Local Education Agency recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the effects of nutrition on the classroom, for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' success, attendance, and behavior.

According to the Food Research & Action Center,

Over 33.8 million Americans (10.4) lived in households that struggled against food insecurity, or lack of access to an affordable, nutritious diet.

One in 26 (3.8 percent) of households in the U.S. experienced very low food security, a more severe form of food insecurity, where households report regularly skipping meals or reducing intake because they could not afford more food.

Children: 1 in 8 (12.5 percent) households with children could not buy enough food for their families, considerably higher than the rate for households without children (9.4 percent).

<https://frac.org/hunger-poverty-america>

Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students in order to prevent both over-consumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity to give students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Nutrition Standards

Meals

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or

exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (i.e. Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans fat.

All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards (7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). This includes, but is not limited to, vending machine and à la carte items.

Other Foods and Beverages

A. The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the use of food as a reward or as part of a celebration. Providing alternatives to food as a reward promotes healthier habits by reducing exposure to less nutritious food items and, therefore, the amount of calorie-dense food items consumed (e.g. cakes, cookies, candy, etc.). This helps children develop improved food preferences and hunger cues to carry them throughout life. Instead, schools will implement the following methods for rewards and celebrations:

- PBIS Students of the Month Recreation Room
- Raider Cart

B. The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. The Local Education Agency will prohibit food and beverage items that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards for reward and celebration purposes. More than 25 percent of children's daily calories may come from snacks, therefore,

providing Smart Snacks allows for a more nutrient-dense calorie intake. [Board Policy 4:120](#)

Fundraisers

- A. All fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards. The school shall also utilize non-food fundraisers to promote healthy habits and well-being. The school will implement the following non-food fundraising ideas:
- The PTA Fundraiser, FundHub brought a profit of approximately \$33,000 from its online donation system. A “Funathon” for all students was provided by the PTA at Northview School and Parkside Schools to celebrate the fundraising success and reward the students with games and activities.
- B. Fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards. However, the LEA may participate in infrequent exempted fundraising days, in which food and beverage items do not meet Smart Snacks standards, as the LEA sees fit. These exempted fundraising days shall not exceed nine days within one year. The LEA shall comply with the following procedures when managing exempted fundraising days:
- The district prohibits exempted fundraising days which promote food and/or beverage items.

Nutrition Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Health Education. The Local Education Agency shall include nutrition education within the health education curriculum and integrate nutrition education into other core subjects, as appropriate. Various grade levels and curriculums shall use nutrition education information, research, and materials from the following resources:

- www.choosemyplate.gov

The Local Education Agency shall incorporate nutrition education into the following curriculums for the following grade levels:

- 5th Grade only

Nutrition Promotion

The District shall implement nutrition promotion techniques through multiple channels, including the cafeteria, classroom, and home.

The District shall make cafeteria menus and nutrition available through the following platforms:

- Posted on School website
- Send home monthly menus in student folders at Northview School
- Posters on cafeteria walls
- Announced on daily announcements

Marketing

A. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standard on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply,

but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu board, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement, however, the District shall implement these standards as equipment is replaced in the future.

- B. The Local Education Agency will prohibit the marketing and advertising of all foods and beverages on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). The marketing standards described above apply, but are not limited to, oral, written, and graphic statements made for promotional purposes. Items subject to marketing requirements include, but are not limited to, posters, menu boards, vending machines, coolers, trash cans, scoreboards, and other equipment. This policy does not require schools to immediately replace equipment that does not meet this requirement, however, the District shall implement these standards as equipment is replaced in the future.

Physical Activity

Physical activity is a key component of the health and well-being of all students. Physical activity lowers the risk for certain diseases, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Physical activity also helps improve brain function, allowing students to perform better in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adolescents get at least 60 minutes of physical activity five days per week. Nearly 76 percent of school-age children fall short of meeting this requirement. The Local Education Agency recognizes this connection and commits to promoting and providing opportunities for physical activity during and outside the school day.

Physical Education

In accordance with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Local Education Agency shall meet all Illinois requirements and standards for Physical Education. The LEA shall offer Physical Education class as follows:

Parkside School

- 4 days a week for 40-43 minutes
- 1 day a week for 33 minutes

Northview School

- 3 days a week for 30 minutes

Other Opportunities for Physical Activity

The District shall include additional physical activity opportunities, outside of Physical Education class, during the school day through the following:

- Lunch/Recess daily

The following opportunities for participation in school-based sports shall be offered to students each year:

- Girls Softball, Volleyball, Basketball
- Boys Baseball, Basketball
- Coed Cheerleading, Track, Inclusive Athletics

Other School-Based Activities

Just as it takes a comprehensive curriculum to provide education to support students' futures, the Local Education Agency's wellness approach must also be comprehensive in its intent to provide students with the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. In order to further establish positive behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and health, the LEA commits to making additional wellness-based activities available to all students beyond the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The Local Education Agency shall offer other school-based activities to support student health and wellness, including coordinated events and clubs. The following events shall be organized and promoted each year:

Physical Activity Promotion

The District shall promote physical activity through the participation in the following initiative(s):

- Dodgeball tournament
- Elks Hoop Shoot Contest
- PreK Open Gym Night
- Funathon
- Parkside Backyard Games- PBIS End of Year Picnic
- Laps for Life
- Ranger Club
- End-of-Year District Fun Run

Unused Food Sharing Plan

Purpose

In alignment with the District's Local Wellness Policy and guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Peru Elementary School District 124 (PESD 124) is committed to reducing food waste and increasing student access to nutritious foods. This plan establishes procedures for the safe redistribution of unopened, uneaten food items through a monitored sharing table.

Goals

- Reduce cafeteria food waste
- Support student nutrition and food security
- Reinforce responsible consumption and sustainability
- Align with district wellness and nutrition education initiatives

Approved Items for Sharing

Students may place the following items on the sharing table:

- Whole, uncut fruits (e.g., apples, oranges, bananas)
- Unopened, pre-packaged food items (e.g., crackers, granola bars)
- Unopened milk cartons and juice containers

Not allowed:

- Opened, partially eaten, or unwrapped items
- Foods requiring temperature control that cannot be safely maintained

Sharing Table Procedures

- A designated **Sharing Table** will be available in each school cafeteria (e.g., Northview Elementary and Parkside Middle School) during meal service.
- Students may place eligible items they choose not to eat on the table.
- Students may take items from the table at no cost.
- Food service staff will actively monitor the table throughout meal periods.

Food Safety & Compliance

- All procedures will comply with local health department regulations and ISBE/USDA guidance.
- Perishable items (milk, yogurt, etc.) must be kept in a temperature-controlled environment (cooler or refrigerated unit).
- Items will be routinely checked for safety, quality, and expiration.
- Unsafe, opened, or compromised items will be discarded immediately.

End-of-Meal Procedures

- At the conclusion of each meal period:
 - Shelf-stable items may be retained for future distribution if allowable.
 - Perishable items not consumed will be properly discarded unless safely stored in accordance with health guidelines.

Staff Roles & Responsibilities

- **Food Service Staff**
 - Set up, monitor, and clean the sharing table
 - Ensure compliance with food safety procedures
- **Building Administration**

- Oversee implementation and compliance with district wellness policy
- Support communication and student expectations
- **Teaching & Support Staff**
 - Reinforce expectations and promote appropriate student use

Student Expectations

- Only place unopened, eligible items on the sharing table
- Only take items they intend to consume
- Follow all hygiene and safety expectations
- No trading or sharing of opened food items