

8705: School Health and Wellness

The Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee is committed to the safety and health of district students and employees. The committee has adopted policies that restrict the stocking of school vending machines to only healthy snacks and drinks. The committee is now ready for early compliance with the 2005 Rhode Island General imitative requiring a comprehensive health and wellness program in each of the state's school districts.

Proclamation

The Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee herein directs the superintendent to establish a district-wide health and wellness program in accordance with this policy. The program shall be developed and formulated by a school health and wellness subcommittee, which shall have broad school district and community representation.

Scope of Policy

This policy sets forth the:

- Required contents of the district health and wellness program,
- Organization of the health and wellness sub committee,
- Description of the subcommittee's work,
- Assistance and support available from the Rhode Island Departments of Heath and Education, and
- Responsibilities of the school committee and superintendent to implement and report-out the subcommittee's recommendations.

Health and Wellness Program

The district's health and wellness program shall promote the general health and well-being of employees and students, with emphasis on reducing obesity among students, through increased physical activity and learned healthy eating habits. Parental involvement will be encouraged. The program shall be structured within new policies and strategies that strengthen and increase the K-12 health and physical education curriculums and instruction. The school health and wellness subcommittee shall develop such policies and strategies.

Subcommittee Composition and Organization

The school heath and wellness sub committee shall have the following members:

- One school committee member, voted by the full committee, who shall chair the subcommittee,
- The Superintendent (or designee),
- One school administrator from each SHS, JHS, and elementary selected by the respective principals,
- One representative from Council 94 bargaining unit selected by the bargaining unit,
- One school nurse-teacher selected by the district's nurse-teachers,
- One health and physical education teacher selected by the district health and physical education teachers,
- One student from each SHS, JHS, and elementary selected by the respective principals,
- One parent from each Exeter and West Greenwich selected by the school committee, and

- Two community representatives, who have no connection to the school district, selected by the subcommittee chair and the Superintendent.

The subcommittee shall meet and formulate its own rules for proceeding including meeting schedules, which shall be locally posted in the manner of school committee meetings, but need not be printed in a newspaper.

Subcommittee’s Responsibilities

The health and wellness sub committee shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the development of policies, strategies and implementation plans that meet the requirements of the ‘child nutrition and WIC reauthorization act of 2004’.

During the development of its recommendations, the subcommittee shall call on the resources of the R.I. Departments of Health and Education for technical assistance and support on best practice, professional development on coordinated school health issues, suggested initiatives, and the sharing of information on the activities of other district subcommittees.

The subcommittee shall forward its recommendations regarding the district’s health education and physical education and instruction, nutrition policies, and physical activities policies to the full school committee.

School Committee and Superintendent Responsibilities

The school committee shall review and approve the subcommittee’s recommendations, as appropriate for the district; issue policies that direct the Superintendent to implement the district health and wellness program; and hold meeting with parents to stress the importance of their participation. The Superintendent shall implement the school committee’s approved health and wellness program with minimum impact on budgets and existing health education and physical education curriculums. The legislative mandate also requires that the subcommittee’s recommendation be melded into the district’s strategic plans. And that, such plans be submitted to the R. I. Departments of Health and Education prior to May 1st of each year.

Applicable State and Federal Laws

This policy is mandated by and written in accordance with the state and federal laws below:

- R.I. General Laws 16-9-2 General Powers and Duties of School Committees--(a) (24) and (25); 16-7.-2. Accountability for Student Performance--(c) (2) (h): and 16-21-28 Health and Wellness Subcommittee.
- Federal Public Law 108-205—June 30, 2004—Short Title: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004; Title 1—Amendments to Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; and Title 2—Amendments to Child Nutrition Act Of 1966.

Dissemination

This policy shall be disseminated to all members of the district curriculum committee, school nurse-teachers, health and physical education teachers, and school administrators.

Effective Date

This policy shall become effective on the date of adoption.

First Reading: September 27, 2005

Second Reading: October 11, 2005

Adopted: October 25, 2005