Southeast Learning Community: School and Childcare Wellness Policies and Practices

December 1, 2015

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California Project LEAN (CPL)

• CPL is a program of the Public Health Institute (PHI)

• CPL works to advance nutrition, physical activity and wellness policy in schools and communities

• Efforts are centered on:
  – Youth and parent empowerment approaches
  – Policy and environmental change strategies
  – Community-based solutions

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Presentation Outline

• Local School Wellness Policy Overview

• Importance of stakeholder involvement

• Expanding wellness in childcare
The number of teens who are overweight is increasing in the United States where three of every ten youth are overweight or obese and rates are higher for African American and Latino youth.

Most teens eat more fat and added sugar than is recommended. Approximately half of these empty calories come from six sources: soda, fruit drinks, dairy desserts, grain desserts, pizza, and whole milk.

Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

Drinking sugary drinks can result in weight gain, overweight, and obesity. Providing access to drinking water is a healthy alternative that can help keep weight down.

Only 29% percent of high school students had participated in at least 60 minutes per day of physical activity and less than half (48%) of high school students attended physical education classes in an average week.

What does this mean?

• More children and adolescents at risk for Type 2 diabetes

• Children and adolescents with chronic disease more likely to miss school

• Unhealthy, unfit students are more likely to have lower academic achievement

• 1st generation in history where children may not live as long as their parents
It is unreasonable to expect that people will change their behavior easily when so many forces in the social, cultural, and physical environment conspire against such change.
In their own, any one of these five solutions might help speed up progress in preventing obesity, but together, their effect would be reinforced, amplified, and maximized.
Schools Play a Key Role in Wellness

CDC’s Core Messages:

• Healthy students are better learners

• Schools can influence eating and physical activity behaviors – at school and at home

• All students deserve the opportunity to be healthy and successful

• Healthy, successful students help build strong communities
Local School Wellness Policy REQUIREMENTS

• Nutrition Guidelines for Foods on Campus

• Goals:
  – Nutrition Education and Promotion
  – Physical Activity
  – Other school-based activities that promote student wellness.

• Stakeholder Involvement

• Implementation/Notification
Other School-Based Activities

Coordinated School Health

• Health Education
• Health Services
• Counseling, Psychological and Social Services
• Social and Emotional Wellness
• Healthy and Safe School Environment
• Health Promotion for Staff
Wellness policies should:

• Reflect community priorities

• Be real- not a document that sits on a shelf

• Attribute responsibility to specific people and create timelines to make them real

• Be expanded over time

• Ideally identify resources to implement steps
School Wellness Assessment Tools

WellSAT: http://wellsat.org/

School Health Index: http://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/shi/index.htm
School Meals – Go Above and Beyond

• Only unflavored, non-fat or low-fat unsweetened milk will be sold with school breakfast and lunch.

• Juice will not be served as a substitute for fruit and vegetables.

• Meals prepared at school shall utilize fresh, whole, unpackaged, unprocessed or minimally processed ingredients, to the maximum extent possible, in order to preserve nutritional content and reduce packaging waste.

• After obtaining food, students will have at least 20 minutes to eat lunch.
Water

• Retrofit or replace fountains to include bottle refillers and chillers wherever possible

• Increase access to fountains in additional locations

• Include water access in the facilities master plan, and facilities managers should do a biannual assessment of water access and maintenance

• Allow students to carry and take water into the classroom, provided that the water is in a capped, clear, container, such as a bottle, to prevent spills

• Cleaning, maintenance, and testing
Nutrition Education and Promotion

• Integrate nutrition education into other core subjects such as math, science, language arts, and social sciences, as well as in non-core and elective subjects and afterschool programming.

• Provide nutrition and health posters, signage, or displays in the cafeteria food service and dining areas, classrooms, hallways, gymnasium, and/or bulletin boards that are frequently rotated, updated, or changed (e.g., seasonal foods).
Physical Education

• The district will meet State Physical Education standards of 200 minutes for Elementary School and 400 minutes per 10 days for Middle/Junior High and High School. (CA)

• Engage students in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 50 percent of class or session time.

• Ensure Physical Education classes will have the same student/teacher ratios used in other classes.

• Not allow automatic waivers or substitutions for Physical Education.
Physical Activity

• In classroom PA

• Recess

• Safe Routes to School

• Joint / Shared Use
• Schools should be commercial free spaces, with no advertising to kids
District Examples
Physical Environment, Health & Safety

- School sites will promote a drug- and substance-free environment and will encourage making healthy choices at home and at school.

- School sites will enforce an “anti-bullying” policy and encourage social tolerance and respect for others.
Positive School Environment

• Schools Free from Bullying, Discrimination, and Sexual Harassment: Schools shall implement measures and initiatives to prevent bullying and discrimination. See Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5131.2 (Bullying), Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.7, and Board Policy 5145.3 (Nondiscrimination, Harassment and Transgender Policy).

• Parent Engagement: All OUSD Central Offices, school sites, and partners shall adhere to the OUSD Standards for Meaningful Family Engagement... Translation shall be provided pursuant to Administrative Regulation 5124 (Translation and Interpretation Services; Communication with Parents/Guardians). Signage shall be visible and available in the school’s primary languages to promote safety, communication, and respect for all.
Health Services Activity Goals

• The District will ensure each student has access to a credentialed school nurse to receive health guidance.

Employee Wellness Activity Goals

• Food and beverages served, sold or otherwise made available to staff, shall comply with the District’s nutrition standards.
Arvin USD

- **School Meals**: Beverages may not contain added sweeteners caloric or non-caloric with the exception of chocolate milk, served once a week and only at lunch.

- **Water**: Provide all students and employees with access to clean, safe palatable drinking water free of charge at every District facility including cafeteria and eating areas, classrooms, hallways, play yards and athletic fields, and faculty lounges throughout the school day and at before and after school activities.

- **Vendors**: The Arvin Union School District will work collaboratively with the city of Arvin and the Arvin Police Department to assure enforcement of City Ordinance 5.05.190 – Peddlers/Vendors
**Water:** Work towards increasing water availability to students and staff with a goal of a ratio of at least 1 fountain or other non-bathroom source per 100 students by 2020, ideally with bottle refilling capacity.

**Vending:** Will not renew contracts with soda companies or industry in order to eliminate sugary beverages and marketing of such companies on campus.

**Training:** Provide annual training for all elementary school teachers (i.e., SPARK training.), and provide them with ideas/instructions manual for physical education and activities in and outside of the classroom.

**Lactation Accommodation:** Teachers and students who are breastfeeding will be assured access to a private space where they can pump or breastfeed as needed.
Why Is Early and Middle Childhood Important?

- Child’s healthy development and lifelong learning

- How a child develops affects future cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development

- Adult health and medical conditions—beginnings in early and middle childhood.
Expanding Wellness Efforts to Childcare Settings

- Healthy People 2020
- Child and Adult Food Care Program
- Healthy Beverages in Child Care Act (AB 2084- CA)
- CA4Health: Madera and Merced Counties (CA)
- Increasing Water Access and Physical Activity Opportunities
Expanding Wellness Efforts to Childcare Settings

- Standards for healthier food, beverages, physical activity and less screen-time in daycare were associated with lower obesity rates and disparities in NYC
- Especially if associated with supports like SPARK, Move to Improve or other physical activity training
- Trade processed snacks in for a fruit bowl and juice for water
Thank you!

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