

The board recognizes that it is important for students to maintain their physical health and receive proper nutrition in order to take advantage of educational opportunities. The board further recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student's physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. The board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience.

A. SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The board will appoint a School Health Advisory Council to help plan, implement and monitor this policy as well as other health and nutrition issues within the school district. The council will serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues. The council may examine related research and laws, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing board policies and administrative regulations, collaborate with appropriate community agencies and organizations, and help raise awareness about student health issues. The council also will assist in developing the student wellness policy and may make other policy recommendations to the board related to health issues necessary to promote student wellness.

The council will be composed of representatives from the school district, the local health department and the community. The council must include members of each of the following groups: the school board, school system administrators, a physical education teacher, school system food service representatives, students, parents or guardians and the public. The council will provide information to the board about the following areas or concern: safe environment, physical education, health education, staff wellness, health services, mental and social health, nutrition services and parent/family involvement.

The council shall provide periodic reports to the board regarding the status of its work. In addition, the council shall assist the superintendent in creating an annual report which includes the minutes of physical activity and the minutes of physical education and/or healthful living education received by students in the district each school year, and any other information required by the State Board of Education.

B. NUTRITION EDUCATION

The board believes that promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement. The goals of nutrition education are (1) to provide appropriate instruction for the acquisition of

behaviors which contribute to a healthy lifestyle for students and (2) to teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students.

The board will provide nutrition education within the Healthful Living Standard Course of Study and Grade Level Competencies adopted by the State Board of Education. Nutrition education will provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives. Students should learn to address nutrition-related health concerns through age-appropriate nutrition education lessons and activities.

Nutrition education should extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and communities. School district personnel may coordinate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition. School district personnel will work to disseminate consistent nutrition messages throughout the school district, schools, classrooms, cafeterias, homes, community and media.

C. NUTRITION GUIDELINES

Consistent with policy 6200, Goals of Student Food Services, all foods available in the system's schools during the school day that are offered to students should help promote student health, reduce childhood obesity, provide a variety of nutritional meals and promote lifelong healthy eating habits.

Foods provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs must comply with federal nutrition standards. In addition, food selections must also be consistent with the state nutrition standards established by the State Board of Education and with policy 6230, Nutritional Standards for Food Selection.

Competitive foods must meet State Board of Education nutrition standards as well as nutrition standards established by the superintendent pursuant to policy 6230. Competitive foods are defined as foods offered at school other than through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs, including food, snacks and beverages from a la carte menus, vending machines and outside suppliers. In addition, all vending machine sales must comply with the requirements of G.S. 115C-264.2 and *Eat Smart: North Carolina's Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools*.

D. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The goal of the physical education program is to promote lifelong physical activity and provide instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation in physical activity. To address issues such as overweight, obesity, cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes, students enrolled in kindergarten

through eighth grades will participate in physical activity as part of the district's physical education curriculum. The physical education course will foster support and guidance for being physically active, will help students know and understand the value of being physically fit, and will teach students the types of activities that contribute to total fitness. The course will be taught in an environment where students can learn, practice and receive assessment on age - appropriate skills as defined in the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study.

Schools personnel should strive to provide opportunities for age- and developmentally-appropriate physical activity during the day for all students; so that students can learn how to maintain a physically active lifestyle. Schools must provide a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. Such activity may be achieved through a regular physical education class, recess, dance, classroom energizers and/or other curriculum-based physical activity programs. Principals shall work with their teachers to ensure that students meet the minimum physical activity requirement.

To ensure that students have ongoing opportunities for physical activity and maintain a positive attitude towards physical activity, structured/unstructured recess and other physical activity may not be taken away from students as a form of punishment. In addition, severe and inappropriate exercise may not be used as a form of punishment for students.

E. OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE WELLNESS

In addition to the aforementioned standards, the board adopts the following goals for school-based activities designed to promote wellness:

1. Schools will provide a clean and safe meal environment.
2. Students will be provided adequate time to eat meals.
3. Drinking water will be available at all meal periods and throughout the school day.
4. Potable drinking water will be available to children at no charge in the place where lunch meals are served during the meal service. While potable water is required to be made available to students, it is not considered part of the reimbursable meal and students are not required to take water.
5. Professional development will be provided for school system nutrition staff.

6. To the extent possible, the school system will utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.
7. Food will not be used in the schools as a reward or punishment.
8. As appropriate, the goals of this student wellness policy will be considered in planning all school based activities.
9. Administrators, teachers, food service personnel, students, parents or guardians and community members will be encouraged to serve as positive role models to promote student wellness.

F. GUIDELINES FOR REIMBURSABLE MEALS

The director of child nutrition will ensure that school district guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal and/or state law whichever is more stringent.

G. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

The superintendent or designee shall oversee implementation of this policy and monitor system schools, programs and curricula to ensure compliance with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations. Each principal shall report to the superintendent or designee regarding compliance in his/her school. Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness also shall report to the superintendent or designee regarding the status of such programs.

The superintendent shall annually report to the board on the system's compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness. The report may include the following items:

1. an assessment of the school environment regarding student wellness issues;
2. an evaluation of food services programs;
3. a review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines;
4. a listing of all activities and programs conducted to promote nutrition and physical activity;
5. information provided in the report from the School Health Advisory Council, as provided in section A, above;

6. suggestions for improvement to policies or programs.

Legal References: The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, 42 U.S.C. 1751 note (Local Wellness Policy); National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §1751, *et seq.*; G.S. 115C-264.2, -264.3; State Board of Education Policies GCS-S-000; TCS-S-002; *.Eat Smart: North Carolina's Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools*, NC Department of Health and Human Services, N.C. Division of Public Health, (2004),

Cross References: Goals of Student Health Services (policy 6100), Goals of Student Food Services (policy 6200), Nutritional Standards for Food Selection (policy 6230)

Adopted: March 13, 2006

Updated: February 2, 2010

The board intends to fully comply with all licensure requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), state law and state board of education policies. Except as provided below, a professional employee must hold at all times a valid North Carolina license appropriate to the position in which he or she is employed. To the extent possible, all professional teaching assignments will be in the area of the professional employee's license except as may be otherwise allowed by state and federal law and State Board policy. In addition, all professional teachers employed to teach core academic subjects must be "highly qualified" as required by NCLB. Core academic subjects include English, reading, or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history and geography.

The board encourages lateral entry into the teaching profession by skilled individuals from the private sector.

A. BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT

The superintendent or designee shall develop a plan and a comprehensive program for beginning teacher support. The plan must be approved by the board and kept on file for review. The superintendent or designee shall submit an annual report on the Beginning Teacher Support Program to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by October 1 of each year. The report must include evidence of demonstrated proficiency on the Beginning Teachers Support Program Standards and evidence of mentor success in meeting Mentor Standards. The school system will also participate in implementing a regionally-based annual peer review and support system.

B. LICENSE RENEWAL

Licensure renewal is the responsibility of the individual, not of the school system. Any employee who allows a license to expire must have it reinstated prior to the beginning of the next school year. A teacher whose license has expired is subject to dismissal.

All licenses have a 5-year renewal cycle during which they must be renewed with 7.5 units of appropriate credit: 1.0 renewal credit for literacy, 1.0 renewal credit in the specific academic subject area, 1.5 renewal credits for technology and 4 general renewal credit. Credit is no longer given for teaching experience. Licenses are always dated to expire on June 30, and the renewal credit MUST be completed by that date. Credit may not be carried from one renewal cycle to the next. Course work may not be repeated within the 5-year cycle, and

duplications will not be allowed.

The school system may offer courses, workshops and independent study activities to help school personnel meet license renewal requirements. Any renewal activity offered must be consistent with State Board of Education policy. In addition, appropriateness of any credit offered in advance of renewal activities

C. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

At the beginning of each school year, the school system shall notify the parents or guardians of each student attending a Title I school or participating in a Title I program of their right to request the following information about qualifications of their child's teacher: whether the teacher has met NC licensing requirements; whether the teacher has had any licensure requirements waived; what the teacher's bachelors degree major(s) is/are; what, other degrees and teaching license area(s) the teacher holds; and whether the child is provided services by a paraprofessional, and if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The school system shall give notice within 10 school days to the parents of children who, after four consecutive weeks, have been taught a core academic subject by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

D. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

The superintendent shall develop a plan in accordance with DPI requirements to ensure that low-wealth, minority, learning disabled and/or English language learners are taught by experienced and highly qualified teachers to the same extent as are students who do not fall into these categories. If DPI does not require such plan of the LEA, the superintendent is not required to develop a plan under this subsection unless he or she determines that one is needed to address inequities within the school system.

Legal References: No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. 6301 *et se*1.; 34 C.F.R. 200.55-57, 200.61; 20 U.S.C. 6319; 20 U.S.C. 7801(11); G.S. 115C-296, -333, -333.1, -325(e)(1)(m); State Board of Education TCP-A-000, -001, -004, -016, -018, 021

Cross References:

Adopted: May 1, 2000 Updated: April 6, 2009 Updated: December 6, 2011

ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

*Policy Code:***NEW 7502**

All employees are expected to be present during all working hours. Except during illness or extraordinary circumstances, employees must provide notice of an intended absence at least ten days prior to the absence. Requests for such absences must be made to and approved by the employee's immediate supervisor. If the request is denied, the employee may appeal the decision to the person who supervises the employee's supervisor. All staff members must have permission from the principal before leaving school during the school day. Absence without prior approval, chronic absences, habitual tardiness or abuses of designated working hours are all considered neglect of duty and will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-37

Cross References: Leave of Absence (policy 7510)

Adopted:

Updated: