



Wellness Policy

Voyager Academy recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student's physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. Voyager Academy 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. As part of that commitment, the Board directs the Governance committee and Managing Director to oversee the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of this policy and other school system efforts to encourage students to be healthy and active, including compliance with the State Board of Education's Healthy Active Children Policy [SHLT-000](#).

School Administration or IT Director shall make this policy available to members of the school community and the public by posting it on the school website and address the policy annually in the Operations and Board Policies Manual. In addition, the Managing Director or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and National School Lunch Program when requested to do so.

A. School Wellness Policy

A Voyager Academy school wellness policy that meets applicable legal requirements shall be approved by the governance committee and adopted by the board of directors. The approved school wellness policy is expressly incorporated and made part of this student wellness policy and all references to this policy include the school wellness policy.

B. School Health Advisory Committee

The school will maintain an appointed School Health Advisory Committee to help plan, update, implement, promote, and monitor the board's school wellness policy as well as other health and nutrition issues within the school system. The Committee serves as an advisory committee regarding student health issues. The Committee is authorized to 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 committee also may make recommendations to the governance committee related to the school wellness policy and other policies related to student wellness and may assist the Managing Director in the periodic review and revision of the school wellness policy. In addition, the Committee may assist in the development of a plan for measuring and assessing implementation of this policy and in developing methods to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of this policy as described in Sections H and I below.

The Committee will be composed of representatives from the school and the community. The Committee must include members of each of the following groups: school administrators, food service representative, physical education teachers, school health professionals, students, parents or guardians and the public. The Committee will provide information to the board about the following areas or concerns: (1) physical activity, (2) health education, (3) employee wellness, (4) health services, (5) social and emotional climate, (6) nutrition environment and services (7) counseling, psychological, and social services, (8) physical environment, (9) family engagement, and (10) community involvement.

The Committee shall provide periodic reports to the board regarding the status of its work. In addition, the Committee shall assist the Managing Director in creating an annual report that includes the minutes of physical activity and the minutes of physical education and/or healthful living education received by students in the system each school year, as well as any other information required by the State Board of Education or NCDPI.

C. Nutrition Promotion and Nutrition Education

The board believes that promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement. The goals of nutrition promotion and nutrition education are (1) to provide appropriate instruction for the acquisition of behaviors that 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 should be designed to 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 and promotion should extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and communities. Voyager Academy personnel may coordinate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition. Voyager Academy personnel are to work to disseminate and promote consistent nutrition messages throughout the schools, classrooms, common areas, homes, community and media.

D. Nutrition Guidelines

Consistent with [PL 111-296](#) “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010”, 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.

1. School Lunch, Breakfast, and Snack Programs

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 School Meal and Competitive Standards.

2. Competitive Foods

Competitive foods must meet State Board of Education nutrition standards as well as nutrition standards established by the [National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs](#). 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*.

3. Other Foods Available on the School Campus During the School Day and After the School Day School principals shall establish rules for foods and beverages brought from home for classroom events or parties during the school day or for extracurricular activities after the school day. The board encourages principals to establish rules that are consistent with the Smart Snacks in Schools standards.

Fundraising activities that involve the sale of foods and/or beverages to students during the school day (from midnight until 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) must comply with the Smart Snack Rules and may not be conducted until after the end of the last lunch period.

School principals may establish standards for fund-raising activities conducted after the school day (beginning 31 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) that involve the sale of food and/or beverages. The board encourages alternative fundraising activities such as non-food items or physical activity.

4. Food and Beverage Marketing

Food and beverage marketing on school campuses during the school day must meet federal and state standards. In accordance with these standards, only foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snack standards (as described in subsection D.2, above) may be marketed or advertised on school campuses

during the school day. To comply with this requirement, existing supplies, materials, or equipment that depict non compliant products or logos will be replaced or removed in accordance with normal life cycles or as otherwise would occur in the normal course of business.

E. 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 obesity, cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes, students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade must have the opportunity to participate in physical activity as part of the system's physical education curriculum. The physical education course should be designed to foster support and guidance for being physically active, help students know and understand the value of being physically fit, and teach students the types of activities that contribute to total fitness. The course is to 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.

School personnel should strive to provide opportunities for 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 will ensure that teachers provide students with the opportunity for physical activity that meets 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.

F. Other School-Based Activities to Promote Wellness

In addition to the standards discussed above, 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. Professional development will be provided for Voyager Academy staff.
5. To the extent possible, Voyager Academy will utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.
6. Teachers will not use food in the classroom as a reward or punishment.
7. As appropriate, the goals of this student wellness policy will be considered in planning all school-based activities.
8. 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.

G. Guidelines for Reimbursable Meals

The Operations Manager acting as the Director of Child Nutrition shall ensure that Voyager Academy guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law.

H. Implementation and Review of Policy

The Governance Committee or designee shall oversee the 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 be responsible for and shall report to the Managing Director or designee regarding compliance in his or her school. Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness also shall report to the Managing Director or designee regarding the status of such programs. Members of the School Health Advisory Committee shall be invited to participate in the ongoing implementation and periodic review and updating of this policy.

Beginning with school year 2022-23, and at least once every three years thereafter, the Managing Director shall report annually to the board on the system's compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness and the implementation of this policy. At a minimum, the Managing Director shall measure and report the following:

1. the extent to which the individual schools are in compliance with this policy;
2. the extent to which the board's wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies; and 3. a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The report may also include the following items:

1. a summary of each school's activities undertaken in support of the policy goals; 2. an assessment of the school environment regarding student wellness issues;
3. an evaluation of food services programs;
4. a review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines;
5. a review of guidelines for foods and beverages available, but not sold, during the school day, as described in subsection D, above;
6. a list of all activities and programs conducted to promote nutrition and physical activity;
7. information provided in the report from the School Health Advisory Committee , as described in section B, above; and
8. suggestions for improvement to this policy or other policies or programs.
9. Voyager will participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) when requested to participate by the state and CDC. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a national school-based survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with state and local education agencies. The YRBS has been conducted in North Carolina since 1993. In order to gather State Board of Education region level data.

I. Public Notification

1. The Voyager Academy will publish contact information for the lead wellness official on the Voyager Academy website.
2. The lead wellness official shall assist the school health advisory Committee with annually informing and updating the public about this policy and its implementation and State Board policy [SHLT-000](#).
3. The Managing Director or designee shall make public the results of the triennial assessment

described in subsection H of this policy.

4. All information required to be reported under this section and any additional information required by the state to be reported publicly shall be widely disseminated to students, parents, and the community in an accessible and easily understood manner, which may include by posting on the Voyager Academy website.

The Managing Director shall implement practices and procedures to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of this policy.

J. Record Keeping

The Managing Director shall maintain records to document compliance with this policy and all federal and state requirements.

Legal References: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, [42 U.S.C. 1751](#); Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, [P.L. 11-296](#); National School Lunch Act, [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.](#); [7 C.F.R. 210.11, 210.12](#) and [210.31](#); [G.S. 115C-264.2, -264.3](#); State Board of Education Policies [SHLT-000, CHNU-000, CHNU-002](#); *Eat Smart: North Carolina's Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools*, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, N.C. Division of Public Health (2004)

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