

**GOALS ACADEMY'S
Wellness Policy
412 W. Carl Karcher Way
Anaheim, California 92801
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GOALS Academy’s Wellness Policy

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GOALS Academy's Wellness Policy

Preamble

GOALS Academy is an independent charter school, which results in it being both a school and a district. It is committed to the optimal development of every scholar. GOALS Academy believes that for scholars to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create strength-based, positive, and health-promoting learning environments at every level and in every setting throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components are strongly correlated with positive scholar outcomes -- good nutrition and physical activity before, during, and after the school day. For example, scholars' participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks.^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7} Conversely, inadequate consumption of specific foods (e.g., fruits, vegetables, and dairy products) is associated with lower grades among scholars.^{8,9,10} In addition, scholars who are physically active during recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education, and extracurricular activities do better academically.^{11,12,13,14} Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance.^{15,16,17}

This policy outlines GOALS Academy's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all scholars to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Scholars at GOALS Academy have access to healthy foods throughout the school day, both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus, in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Scholars receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Scholars have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and after school;
- Scholars engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of GOALS Academy in creating continuity between school and other settings for scholars and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- GOALS Academy establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.
- GOALS Academy will coordinate the wellness policy with other aspects of school management, including the LCAP and LEA Plan.

This policy applies to all scholars and staff at GOALS Academy, which is an independent charter school. Specific measurable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below. Will also include any relevant data or statistics from state or local sources supporting the need for establishing and achieving the goals in this policy.

School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

GOALS Academy will create a Wellness Committee (hereto referred to as the GAWC) that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this wellness policy. The GAWC membership will include teacher representation from the primary grades (TK-2) and upper grades (3-6), as well as scholars, parents, meal clerk, community liaison, counselor, director, and the general public. There will be an effort to reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The director will convene the GAWC, facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and ensure the school's compliance with the policy. The designated official for oversight is Debra J. Schroeder, Ed.D. She is the founding director of GOALS Academy and can be reached at dschroeder@goalsacademy.us.

The names, titles, and contact information (e-mail address is sufficient) of all current individual(s) on the GAWC are:

Name	Title / Relationship to GOALS Academy	E-mail Address	Role on Committee
Debra J. Schroeder, Ed.D.	Founding Director	dschroeder@goalsacademy.us	Provides leadership for the GAWC and coordinates meetings
Patty Fabian	Community Liaison	pfabian@goalsacademy.us	Coordinates the participation of parents and provides translation for Spanish-speaking members
Liliana Ledesma	Meal Clerk	lledesma@goalsacademy.us	Provides feedback regarding the Free/Reduced Meal Program

Michele Rowell	TK/K Teacher	mrowell@goalsacademy.us	Shares strategies implemented in the primary grades to ensure the wellness of the scholars
Adam Chiles	Grade 5 Teacher	achiles@goalsacademy.us	Shares strategies implemented in the upper grades to ensure the wellness of the scholars
Sarah Taito	Counselor	staito@goalsacademy.us	Provides insights regarding social-emotional growth of scholars
Jennifer Centa	F.A.S.T. President	jenncenta@hotmail.com	Represents the parents, as well as provides support for wellness financially and through volunteers
Yvette LaValle	SSC Chairperson	ylavalle@rocketmail.com	Represents the parents, as well as provides support for wellness financially and through volunteers

Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

GOALS Academy will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this Wellness Policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and timelines related to this Wellness Policy; and includes information about who will be responsible for which areas. There will also be specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote scholar wellness. It is recommended that the school use the [Healthy Schools Program Online Tools](#) to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's School Health Index. This assessment will support the creation of an action plan that fosters implementation and generates an annual progress report.

This Wellness Policy and the progress reports can be found at: <https://www.goalsacademy.us/>.

Recordkeeping

GOALS Academy will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the Wellness Policy at the school, with an address of 412 W. Carl Karcher Way, Anaheim, California 92801. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written Wellness Policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update GOALS Academy's Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods GOALS Academy uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the GAWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school Wellness Policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the GOALS Academy Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

Annual Notification of Policy

GOALS Academy will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy, and implementation status. GOALS Academy will make this information available via the school's website and/or school-wide communications. GOALS Academy will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the school's events or activities related to Wellness Policy implementation. Annually, the school will also publicize the name and contact information of GOALS Academy official leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school's GAWC.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, GOALS Academy will evaluate compliance with the Wellness Policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which GOALS Academy is in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which GOALS Academy's Wellness Policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of GOALS Academy's wellness Policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Debra J. Schroeder, Ed.D., Founding Director of GOALS Academy, at dschroeder@goalsacademy.us or 714-563-2390.

The GAWC will monitor the school's compliance with this Wellness Policy.

GOALS Academy will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The GAWC will update or modify the Wellness Policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as GOALS Academy's priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or State guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications

GOALS Academy is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the Wellness Policy. GOALS Academy will actively communicate ways in which representatives of the GAWC and others can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the Wellness Policy through a variety of means appropriate for GOALS Academy. GOALS Academy will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. GOALS Academy will use electronic mechanisms, such as e-mail or displaying notices on the school's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the Wellness Policy, as well as how to get involved and support the Policy. GOALS Academy will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that GOALS Academy is communicating important school information with parents.

GOALS Academy will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the Wellness Policy annually, at a minimum. GOALS Academy will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

Nutrition

School Meals

GOALS Academy is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal program aims to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns, and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

GOALS Academy participates in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), as well as the State Nutrition Program. GOALS Academy also provides an after-school snack to all scholars remaining past 3:00 p.m. for the Little Labs, Big Labs, and GOALS for GOALS Academy Programs. GOALS Academy is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal and State child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all scholars;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by Local, State, and Federal statutes and regulations. (GOALS Academy offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):
 - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
 - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
 - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of scholars.
 - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
 - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to scholars.
 - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt scholars to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
 - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
 - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
 - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to scholars (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
 - Scholar surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
 - Scholar artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
 - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.

The following practices will also be implemented:

- Menus will be posted on the District website or individual school websites, and will include nutrient content and ingredients.
- Menus will be created/reviewed by a Registered Dietitian or other certified nutrition professional.
- School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
- GOALS Academy's nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Scholars will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria).
- Scholars are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among scholars and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.
- GOALS Academy will implement at least four of the following five Farm to School activities (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria; mark/circle the four activities the District plans to do):
 - Local and/or regional products are incorporated into the school meal program;
 - Messages about agriculture and nutrition are reinforced throughout the learning environment;
 - School hosts a school garden;
 - School hosts field trips to local farms; and
 - School utilizes promotions or special events, such as tastings, that highlight the local/regional products.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

GOALS Academy will be supported by Schools in Action as its School Food Authority (SFA) and Better 4 You Meals as its vendor. Both of these entities will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs. Additionally, staff members at GOALS Academy will undergo professional development and be certified in safe food handling.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all scholars throughout the school day. GOALS Academy will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

- A drinking fountain is installed in the Picnic Plaza area.
- All water sources and containers will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene and health safety standards. Such sources and containers may include drinking fountains, water jugs, hydration stations, water jets, and other methods for delivering drinking water.
- Scholars will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

GOALS Academy is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to scholars on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve scholar health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org.

To support healthy food choices and improve scholar health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to scholars on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the State and USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, à la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, and snack or food carts.

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the State and USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including through:

- Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
- Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.
- Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.
[Meets Healthy Schools Program Silver-level criteria]

Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. GOALS Academy will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas [*examples from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and the [USDA](#)*].

Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Scholars and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout the school's classrooms and Picnic Plaza. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to scholars and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, scholars and the community.

GOALS Academy will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all scholars throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#); and
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to scholars meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that the District and individual schools may use are available at <http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/>.

Nutrition Education

GOALS Academy will teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by all scholars. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide scholars with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens;

- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.
- In elementary schools, nutrition education will be offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based health education curriculum that meets state and national standards (meets Healthy Schools Program Silver/Gold-level criteria).
- All classroom teachers will provide opportunities for scholars to practice or rehearse the skills taught through the health education curricula (meets Healthy Schools Program Silver/Gold-level criteria).

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

GOALS Academy will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- [The Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

GOALS Academy is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all scholars to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. GOALS Academy strives to teach scholars how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if scholars are subjected to advertising on school property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information GOALS Academy is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of GOALS Academy to protect and promote scholar's

health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with GOALS Academy's Wellness Policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to scholars on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the State and USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes an oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product.¹⁵ This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Brand names, trademarks, logos, or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors.
- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items is not required; however, districts will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that is in financially possible over time so that items are in compliance with the marketing policy).
- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books, or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered, or sold by GOALS Academy.
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings.
- Free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As GOALS Academy reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by GOALS Academy's Wellness Policy.

Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of scholars' physical activity can be provided through a Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during, and after school; and staff involvement and family and community engagement. GOALS Academy is committed to providing these opportunities. GOALS Academy will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). GOALS Academy classrooms will be encouraged to participate in *Let's Move!* Active Schools (www.letsmoveschools.org) in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks, or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason, unless

a scholar is involved in an in-school or home suspension or an expulsion. GOALS Academy will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline scholars.

To the extent practicable, GOALS Academy will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to scholars to be active. GOALS Academy will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Additionally:

- Through a formal joint- or shared-use agreement, indoor and outdoor physical activity facilities and spaces will be open to scholars, their families, and the community outside of school hours (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria). [Change Lab Solutions](#) provides guidance regarding joint- or shared-use agreements.
- GOALS Academy will ensure that inventories of physical activity supplies and equipment are known and, when necessary, will work with community partners to ensure sufficient quantities of equipment are available to encourage physical activity for as many scholars as possible.

Physical Education

GOALS Academy will provide scholars with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the “*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*” subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All scholars will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. GOALS Academy will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all scholars and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All scholars in each grade will receive physical education for at least 100 minutes per week throughout the school year (Meets Healthy Schools Program Silver-level criteria).

GOALS Academy’s physical education program will promote scholar’s physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each scholar.

- Scholars will be moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of class time during most or all physical education class sessions (meets Healthy Schools Program Silver-level criteria).
- Waivers, exemptions, or substitutions for physical education classes are not granted.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in all grades (elementary). GOALS Academy will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease

- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise, and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout, and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia, and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time, and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity

Recess

All elementary schools will offer at least 20 minutes of outdoor recess on all days during the school year, with the exception of days when there is inclement weather. This is defined as days when it is raining, above 90 degrees, or at the discretion of the director or his/her designee based on his/her best judgment of safety conditions.

In the event that the school or district must conduct indoor recess, teachers and staff will follow indoor recess guidelines (in development) that promote physical activity for scholars, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage scholars to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the scholars whenever feasible.

Classroom Physical Activity Breaks

GOALS Academy recognizes that scholars are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, scholars will be offered periodic opportunities to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. GOALS Academy recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to scholars during and between classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

GOALS Academy will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through [USDA](#) and the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#).

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

GOALS Academy will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the scholars whenever feasible.

Before- and After-School Activities

GOALS Academy offers opportunities for scholars to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods. GOALS Academy will encourage scholars to be physically active before and after school by providing activities such as:

- Dance
- Running Club
- Sports, including roller hockey and ice hockey

Active Transport

GOALS Academy will support active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking, whenever it is feasible. Because GOALS Academy is a school of choice and our families come from a variety of areas, active transport (walking or biking to and from school) has to be a family’s choice depending upon the location of their homes.

Other Activities that Promote Scholar Wellness

GOALS Academy will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues, and physical activity facilities. GOALS Academy will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work toward the same set of goals and objectives promoting scholar well-being, optimal development, and strong educational outcomes.

GOALS Academy teachers are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote scholar health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, discussing health concepts during the study of science, and exploring life expectancies throughout history and around the world.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state, or association recognition or grants/funding for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the GAWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the Wellness Policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

Community Partnerships

GOALS Academy will enhance relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, SNAP-Ed providers and coordinators, etc.) in support of this Wellness Policy's implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the Wellness Policy and its goals.

Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement

GOALS Academy will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the "Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications" subsection, GOALS Academy will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., e-mail or displaying notices on the school's website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The GAWC will have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources, and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with the director. The names of the leaders of the subcommittee are Michele Rowell and Eileen Blagden.

GOALS Academy will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. Examples of possible strategies include participation in Morning Gathering exercises, activity breaks during Teacher Think Tank Meetings, walking/running cohorts during lunch and after school, etc. GOALS Academy promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management through partnership with local entities.

Professional Learning

When feasible, GOALS Academy will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help GOALS Academy staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing school reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

Glossary

Extended School Day – the time during, before, and after school that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

School Campus - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

School Day – the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

Triennial – recurring every three years.

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