Wellness

Policy Intent/Rationale

Cornerstone School promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition, physical activity, health education and awareness as part of the learning environment. The school supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. Cornerstone contributes to the basic health status of children by facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. Improved health optimizes student performance potential.

- Cornerstone School will engage students, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing the school’s nutrition and physical activity policies.
- All students will have opportunities, support and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages served at school will meet and/or exceed the nutrition recommendations of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as well as the USDA and RINR regulations.
- Cornerstone School will accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- To the maximum extent practicable, Cornerstone School will participate in the available Federal Schools Meal Programs (including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program).
- Cornerstone will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of
healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs; and with related community services.

Cornerstone School will use the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Coordinated School Health approach to comprehensive school wellness. The Coordinated School Health model includes 7 areas of school health: (1) safe environment; (2) physical education; (3) health education; (4) staff wellness; (5) health services; (6) mental and social health; and (7) nutrition services.

This policy will provide Cornerstone School with guidelines, goals and information that will help the district maintain Federal, State and district regulations.

School Wellness Committee:

*RI General Law (16-21-28) requires the establishment of a district wide coordinated school health and wellness subcommittee chaired by a full member of the School Committee.*

The School Committee shall establish a Wellness Committee that will be composed of, at a minimum, a School Administrator, a School Food Authority representative, a school nurse, and a member of the physical education department.

This committee shall meet no less than four times during the school year.

The members of the committee shall:

- collaborate and coordinate resources to drive school health objectives
- communicate with the public regarding issues of health and wellness
- make recommendations to administration regarding issues of health and wellness
- review and update Wellness policies
- ensure that all policies are being followed
- ensure that all areas of health and wellness standards are current

See: [http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/statutes/title16/16-21/16-21-28.htm](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/statutes/title16/16-21/16-21-28.htm)
Nutrition Guidelines for all foods in school

The integrity of the school nutrition environment depends on the quality of all foods and beverages served at school. Foods that provide little nutritional value compete with healthy school meals, send mixed messages to students, undermine nutrition education efforts and discourage healthy eating. School nutrition guidelines shall address all food and beverages served to students, as well as food and beverages served during school celebrations.

School Meals

*R.I. General Law (16–21–7) At a minimum, reimbursable meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs must meet USDA nutrition requirements and Rhode Island Nutrition Requirements*

The full meal school breakfast and lunch programs must comply with the USDA and RINR Requirements for Federal School Meals Programs and follow the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

See:  
http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/

Breakfast

To ensure that all children have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn:

- Cornerstone will operate the School Breakfast Program.
- Cornerstone will utilize methods to serve breakfasts that encourage participation, including serving breakfast to students in the beginning of the school day.
- Cornerstone will notify parents/guardians and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.

Free and Reduced-priced Meals

Cornerstone School will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

Toward this end schools may:
• utilize electronic identification and payment systems;
• provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income,
• Promote the availability of school meals to all students;
• Use nontraditional methods for serving school meals

**Summer Food Service Program**

Cornerstone will provide a food service program for those students attending an extended school year program or attending.

**Eating Environment**

A well designed and pleasant eating environment is important to the promotion of students’ healthy eating habits. Schools need to assess traffic flows, time allotted for school meals and cafeteria layout to ensure that students are actually encouraged to eat.

Cornerstone will strive towards providing:

• Adequate space to eat in clean, pleasant surroundings
• Adequate time to eat meals
• Convenient access to hand washing or hand sanitizing facilities before meals
• Scheduled lunch periods at appropriate times
• Water will be made available to student in the cafeteria

**Food Safety and Security**

The food offered to students in the school must not only be nutritious, but must also comply with state and local safety and sanitation regulations. The quality of the food is determined both by the nutrient value and by the standards by which it was prepared.

• All foods made available to students will comply with the State and local food safety and sanitation regulations.
• Sharing of food by students is not encouraged.
• Staff may not share their personal food with students
• Homemade food prepared by staff is not allowed to be brought in to the school for students
• Students bringing in homemade food may only be consumed by that student and is not to be shared amongst others
• Guidelines shall be implemented by the Food Service Provider in order to avoid food
illness in schools.

- Access to food service operations is limited to Food Service staff and personnel authorized.

**School Food Service Provider Operations**

The purpose of the National Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program is to safeguard the health of our children. In order to achieve this purpose, the FSP must provide students with adequate and high-quality nutrition during the school day. Menus will comply with all federal, state, and local regulations.

School meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- Be appealing and attractive to students.
- Be served in clean and pleasant settings
- Meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state and federal statutes and regulations
- Offer a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Serve only low-fat (1%) and fat free milk and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (to be defined by the USDA).
- Ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain.

School/Food Service Providers should engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys in order to identify new, healthful and appealing food choices and to identify issues within the program.

School/Food Service Providers should share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students. Such information should be made available on menus, a website, on cafeteria menu boards, in school offices or other point of purchase materials.

**Peanut and Tree Nut Allergy**

*R.I. General Law 16-21-31 & 16-21-32*

Depending on the nature and extent of the student's allergy, the measures listed in the IHCP may include, but are not limited to:

- Posting additional signs (e.g., in classroom entryways).
• Prohibiting particular food items in the school.
• Prohibiting particular food items from certain classrooms and/or the cafeteria.
• Completely prohibiting particular food items from the school or school grounds.
• Educating school personnel, students, and families about food allergies; and/or
• Implementing particular protocols around cleaning surfaces touched by food products,
  washing of hands after eating, etc.
• The measures shall be taken in conjunction with the Cornerstone School’s health and
  wellness policy and food safety policy.
• A plan may also be developed for each staff member with a serious food allergy.

**Student Birthday Celebration**
Cornerstone School recognizes that birthdays are a special day for our students. Cornerstone must ensure that these types of celebrations do not disrupt the learning process or do not go against current Wellness policies. Cornerstone School adheres to a Wellness Policy that recognizes the importance of wellness, good nutrition and an active lifestyle in the overall health of our students. Cornerstone School and our staff are responsible for positively influencing student beliefs and habits in these areas. Frequent birthday celebrations with cookies, cupcakes, and other sweets are not in alignment with these learning goals. In addition; a growing number of students throughout the school have health concerns related to food, including allergies, diabetes, and other diseases causing this to become a safety issue as well.

Therefore, birthday parties in which treats and/or snacks are brought to school will not be permitted. If parents would like to recognize their child on their special day, there are a number of non-food options available, such as: sending in pencils, erasers, and/or stickers for every child. Other suggestions include, the child donating a book to his/her class library or an educational game to his/her classroom. School administration may decide what non-food related form of recognition is appropriate for their school.

**School/Classroom Celebrations**
Cornerstone School recognizes that school events such that reflect learning activities, awards, transitions and end of the year activities are special for students and families. Any cooked food given to students must be provided by the Food Service Worker or store bought and must be approved by the school nurse and/or school administration. The purpose is to ensure that all foods that are made available to students during school hours comply with the State and local food safety and sanitation regulations and follow the Peanut and Tree Nut Allergy - R.I. General Law 16-21@16-21-32.

**Nutrition Education**

Cornerstone School aims to teach, encourage and support healthy eating. The school should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is offered to each student as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.
- Is incorporated into regular classroom instruction and cafeteria when appropriate and feasible.
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits and school gardens.
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices.
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise).
- Includes training for teachers and other staff.

**Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education**

Physical Education is required for all students in grades 1-12 according to RI General Law (16-22-4) and Sec. 3.5 of the Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs. Students should receive an average of 100 minutes per week of health/physical education. Recess, free play, and after-school activities are not counted as physical education. School PE curricula must be aligned with the standards and performance indicators in The Rhode Island Physical Education Framework.
Physical education classes and physical activity opportunities will be available for all students.
Physical activity opportunities shall be offered as when possible before, during (recess) and after school.

As recommended by the National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), school leaders of physical activity and physical education shall guide students through a process that will enable them to achieve and maintain a high level of personal fitness by:

- Exposing them to a wide variety of physical activities.
- Teaching physical skills to help maintain a lifetime of health and fitness.
- Encouraging self-monitoring so students can see how active they are and set their own goals.
- Individualizing the intensity of activities.
- Focusing on feedback on process of doing your best rather than on product.
- Being active role models.
- Introduce developmentally appropriate components of health-related fitness assessment, (e.g. Fitness Gram, President’s Council) to the students at an early age to prepare them for future assessments.
- The physical education program shall be provided adequate space and equipment and conform to all applicable safety standards.
- Schools may choose to offer intramural sports or activities after school that meet the needs, interests and abilities of all students. These offerings may require a fee for students to participate.
- Waivers for physical education are discouraged.
- Physical education will be taught by a licensed instructor.
- The district will ensure that PE staff will receive professional development on a yearly basis.

a. Recess

Students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors (weather
permitting) during which school should encourage moderate physical activity as long as there is appropriate space and equipment.

- School should discourage extended periods (i.e. two or more hours) of inactivity.
- Teachers and other school and community personnel should refrain from withholding opportunities for physical activities (i.e. recess, physical education) as punishment.

**Staff Wellness**

Cornerstone School highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts made by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Staff will be encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

Cornerstone will strive to provide nutrition and physical education activity education opportunities to all school staff. These educational opportunities may include the distribution of materials, arrangements of presentations or workshops that focus on nutritional value and healthy lifestyles, health assessments, fitness activities and other appropriate nutrition and physical-activity related topics.

**Community Involvement**

The school will support parents’ efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. Cornerstone will:

- Inform parents and community groups of the Wellness policies.
- Post menus and nutritional information regarding school food programs.
- Provide information regarding physical activity opportunities for students before, during and after the school day.
- Provide information via a website, newsletter or other form of communication to notify parents of opportunities for nutrition information, healthy eating, school menus.
- Opportunities for physical activities for children outside of the school day and any other Wellness related information.
- Support approved community organizations in providing information to students about
opportunities for physical activities.

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

This policy and any proposed updates will be made available to all staff as families. In an effort to ensure compliance with the wellness policy, any updated policy information will be provided to school administration so that they may distribute the necessary information to staff and parents/guardians.

School food service staff will ensure compliance of nutrition policies within the school food service areas and will report on this matter to the School Committee. These reports will include any issues, concerns and reviews of USDA School Meals Initiatives.

Cornerstone School administration will ensure compliance of these policies within the school and will report on the school’s compliance to the Wellness committee

Policy Review

An assessment of Cornerstone School to determine policy compliance will be done every two years. This review will be done via survey at the school level and possible surveying of parents, staff, students and food service providers. Review and reporting of these surveys will be submitted by the Wellness Committee and will be made available to all families and school staff. Cornerstone will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation. The revision will be based on the review of the latest national recommendations and new Federal/State regulations and laws.

See: School Health Index from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Changing the Scene from the Team Nutrition Program of the USDA, and Opportunity to Learn Standards for Elementary, Middle and High School Physical Education from NASPE. 11

Resources for Local School Wellness Policies on Nutrition and Physical Activity Crosscutting:

- School Health Index, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/shi/
• Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, http://www.iom.edu/report.asp?id=22596


• Ten Strategies for Promoting Physical Activity, Healthy Eating, and a Tobacco-free Lifestyle through School Health Programs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/publications/pdf/ten_strategies.pdf


School Health Councils:
• Promoting Healthy Youth, Schools and Communities: A Guide to Community-School Health Councils, American Cancer Society


Nutrition: General Resources on Nutrition
• Making it Happen: School Nutrition Success Stories, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Agriculture.


• Guidelines for School Health Programs to Promote Lifelong Healthy Eating, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr4509.pdf

• Healthy Food Policy Resource Guide, California School Boards Association and California
Project LEAN, [http://www.csba.org/ps/hf.htm](http://www.csba.org/ps/hf.htm)


### School Meals

- Local Support for Nutrition Integrity in Schools, American Dietetic Association, [http://www.eatright.org/Member/Files/Local.pdf](http://www.eatright.org/Member/Files/Local.pdf)
- Nutrition Services: an Essential Component of Comprehensive Health Programs, Dietetic Association, [http://www.eatright.org/Public/NutritionInformation/92_8243.cfm](http://www.eatright.org/Public/NutritionInformation/92_8243.cfm)
- Breakfast for Learning, Food Research and Action Center [www.frac.org/pdf/breakfastforlearning.PDF](http://www.frac.org/pdf/breakfastforlearning.PDF)
- Arkansas Child Health Advisory Committee Recommendations [includes recommendation for professional development for child nutrition professionals in schools], [http://www.healthyarkansas.com/advisory_committee/pdf/final_recommendations .pdf](http://www.healthyarkansas.com/advisory_committee/pdf/final_recommendations .pdf)

### Meal Times and Scheduling

- Eating at School: A Summary of NFSMI Research on Time Required by Students to Eat Lunch, National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI)

### Nutrition Standards for Foods and Beverages Sold Individually
• Recommendations for Competitive Foods Standards (a report by the National Consensus Panel on School Nutrition), California Center for Public Health Advocacy, http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/school_food_standards/school_food_stan_pdfs/Nutrit
• Nutrition Integrity in Schools, (forthcoming), National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity
• School Foods Tool Kit, Center for Science in the Public Interest, www.cspinet.org/schoolfood/
• School Foods Tool Kit, Center for Science in the Public Interest, www.cspinet.org/schoolfood/Foods_Sold_in_Competition_with_USDA_School_Meal_Programs (a report to Congress), U.S. Department of Agriculture, http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/Foods_Sold_in_Competition_with_USDA_School_Meal_Programs

Fruit and Vegetable Promotion in Schools

• School Foodservice Guide: Successful Implementation Models for Increased Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, Produce for Better Health Foundation. Order on-line for $29.95 at http://www.shop5aday.com/acatalog/School_Food_Service_Guide.html
• School Foodservice Guide: Promotions, Activities, and Resources to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, Produce for Better Health Foundation. Order on-line for $9.95 at www.shop5aday.com/acatalog/School_Food_Service_Guide.html
• National Farm-to-School Program website, hosted by the Center for Food and Justice, http://www.farmtoschool.org/
• Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program Resource Center, hosted by United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, http://www.uffva.org/fvpilotprogram.htm
• Produce for Better Health Foundation website has downloadable fruit and vegetable curricula, research, activity sheets, and more at http://www.5aday.org/

Snacks
• Healthy School Snacks, (forthcoming), Center for Science in the Public Interest

• Materials to Assist After-school and Summer Programs and Homeless Shelters in Using the Child Nutrition Programs (website), Food Research and Action Center,

Rewards

• Constructive Classroom Rewards, Center for Science in the Public Interest,
  http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/constructive_rewards.pdf

• Alternatives to Using Food as a Reward, Michigan State University Extension,
  http://www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/foodrewards.pdf

• Prohibition against Denying Meals and Milk to Children as a Disciplinary Action, U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

Celebrations

• Guide to Healthy School Parties, Action for Healthy Kids of Alabama,
  http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/AFHK/team_center/team_resources/AL/N&PA

• Classroom Party Ideas, University of California Cooperative Extension Ventura County and California Children’s 5 A Day Power Play! Campaign,

Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing: Health Education

• National Health Education Standards, American Association for Health Education,

Nutrition Education and Promotion

• U.S. Department of Agriculture Team Nutrition website (lists nutrition education curricula and links to them), http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Educators/index.htm


• Nutrition Education Resources and Programs Designed for Adolescents, compiled by the American Dietetic Association, www.eatright.org/Public/index_19218.cfm

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting
• Brain Breaks, Michigan Department of Education, <www.emc.cmich.edu/brainbreaks>
Energizers, East Carolina University, www.ncpe4me.com/energizers.html

Eating Disorders
• Academy for Eating Disorders, http://www.aedweb.org/
• Eating Disorders Coalition, http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org/

Staff Wellness
• School Staff Wellness, National Association of State Boards of Education
• Healthy Workforce 2010: An Essential Health Promotion Sourcebook for Employers, Large and Small, Partnership for Prevention,
• Well Workplace Workbook: A Guide to Developing Your Worksite Wellness Program,
  Wellness Councils of America,
• Protecting Our Assets: Promoting and Preserving School Employee Wellness,
  (forthcoming), Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE)

Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education:

General Resources on Physical Activity
• Guidelines for School and Community Programs to Promote Lifelong Physical Activity among Young People, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
  http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00046823.htm
• Healthy People 2010: Physical Activity and Fitness, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports,
• Physical Fitness and Activity in Schools, American Academy of Pediatrics,
  http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/105/5/1156

Physical Education
• Opportunity to Learn: Standards for Elementary Physical Education, National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Order on-line for $7.00 at
http://member.aahperd.org/template.cfm?template=Productdisplay.cfm


Recess


- Recess Before Lunch Policy: Kids Play and then Eat, Montana Team Nutrition, www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood/recessBL.html


Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School


• Rights and Responsibilities of Interscholastic Athletes, National Association for Sport and Physical Education,

Monitoring and Policy Review:

• School Health Index, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/shi/


• Criteria for Evaluating School-Based Approaches to Increasing Good Nutrition and Physical Activity, Action for Healthy Kids,

• Opportunity to Learn: Standards for Elementary Physical Education, National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Order on-line for $7.00 at
  http://member.aahperd.org/template.cfm?template=Productdisplay.cfm&product

• Opportunity to Learn: Standards for Middle School Physical Education. National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Order on-line for $7.00 at
  http://member.aahperd.org/template.cfm?template=ProductDisplay.cfm

• Opportunity to Learn: Standards for High School Physical Education. National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Order on-line for $7.00 at
  http://member.aahperd.org/template.cfm?template=Productdisplay.cfm&product

Cornerstone School
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND
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