

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

Wellness Policy



The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The school 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. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices.

Food and Beverage Availability

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School is committed to serving healthy meals to students, 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 programs aim 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 special dietary needs.

Wil Lou Gray participates in USDA child nutrition programs through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Smart Snack Program, and is committed to offering school meals that:

- are accessible to all students
- 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
- *[option: promote healthy food and beverage choices using Smarter Lunchroom techniques as recommended by the USDA where appropriate]*

Wil Lou Gray will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior. Additionally, schools will not withhold food or beverages as punishment. Teachers are provided with a list of alternative ideas for behavior management.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout the school campus. Wil Lou Gray will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive foods and beverages

Wil Lou Gray is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on school grounds during the school day support healthy eating. No foods or beverages are sold at Wil Lou Gray.

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Goals for Health and Wellness

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. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents/legal guardians, students, and the community.

The school will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus and will encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through the use of evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques and through adherence to a policy of 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meeting the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Nutrition education

Wil Lou Gray will teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by all students. The school will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that fulfills the following criteria:

- fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors such as acquiring skills for reading food labels and menu planning
- is part of a sequential comprehensive standards-based health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health
- 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)
- includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff

Wil Lou Gray will provide a voluntary Culinary Arts Class to both male and female students who wish to learn about kitchen etiquette and basic cooking skills. As part of this class, the students will have the opportunity to participate in various field trips pertaining to food festivals where they can experience cultural diversity in international and local foods. At the end of the class, students are encouraged to take the Serve Safe test to assist them in future endeavors in the food industry.

Physical activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program which includes quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during, and after school; staff involvement; and community engagement. Wil Lou Gray may promote opportunities for physical activity via in school announcements, newsletters, posters, etc.

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Wil Lou Gray encourages the use of physical activity as a reward when feasible. 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. **This does not include participation on sports teams or with other sports-related after school activities, nor does it include participation on sports teams with specific academic requirements.**

Physical education

Wil Lou Gray will provide students 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 and incorporate essential health education concepts.

Other activities that promote student wellness

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

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School is a quasi-military atmosphere which promotes daily physical training by all students. As part of the program, students participate in the JROTC component which provides Education Wellness instruction related to eating healthy, engaging in physical activities, sleep requirements and drug and alcohol awareness. On a voluntary basis, students may choose to participate in the WLGOS Drill Team and Color Guard.

In the academic component at Wil Lou Gray, an Activities Coordinate facilitates all after-school and weekend activities.

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

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

Wil Lou Gray will develop and enhance relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses) 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.

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Community health promotion and family engagement

Wil Lou Gray will promote to parents/caregivers and families the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Wil Lou Gray will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email 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 Wil Lou Gray wellness committee may 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 human resources staff. The school will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

Professional learning

Wil Lou Gray follows the USDA Professional Standards for State and Local Nutrition Programs to ensure professional development in the area of food and nutrition is provided for all food service employees, including directors, managers, and staff.

When feasible, the school will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for non-food services staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school.

School Wellness Committee/Coordinated School Health Advisory Council

Wil Lou Gray operates on a trimester system during the academic year; March, July and October. The wellness committee will meet at least two times per session and establish/monitor wellness goals related to school health and safety policies and programs. This includes development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. Wellness committee members will include, to the extent possible, parents/legal guardians, students, representatives of school nutrition services, physical activity coordinator, teachers, school health professionals and school administrators. The designated officer for ensuring school compliance with the wellness policy and oversight of the committee will be (Director of Operations, 803-896-6469)

Annually, the school will notify the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and share any updates to the policy. The district will also publicize the name and contact information of the *Food Service Director*.

Every three years, the school will assess its compliance with the policy, how it compares to model wellness policies published by state and federal agencies, and the school's progress in attaining the goals of the policy. The results of this assessment will be made available to the public to showcase the wellness efforts being made by Wil Lou Gray. Following this assessment, the school will update or modify the policy as necessary and share these changes with the public.

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Recordkeeping

The school will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. Documentation maintained by the school 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 the policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the school uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the school wellness committee (e.g., copy of meeting notice posted on the school website)
- documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements
- the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy has been made available to the public

Food and Beverage Marketing

Wil Lou Gray is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The school strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on school property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the school is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the school to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be used on the school campus, consistent with the school's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.

Contracts for goods or services that include a food and beverage marketing component executed after June 30, 2017, must conform to federal nutrition standards. No exceptions will be granted.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing includes any 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. 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

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- corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment that is displayed during the school day, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards, or backboards (**Note: Immediate replacement of these items is not required; however, the district 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 this 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 the district
- 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

Adopted ^

Legal References:

A. Federal Law:

1. Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-296, 124 Stat. 3183.

B. Federal Regulations:

1. National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Goods Sold in School, 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220 (2016).
2. Local School Wellness Policy Implementation, 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220 (2016).

C. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-10-10, *et seq.* - Physical education, school health services, and nutritional standards.
2. Section 59-10-330 - Coordinated School Health Advisory Council (CSHAC).
3. Section 59-10-350 - Length of elementary school lunch period.
4. Section 59-32-30(A)(1)-(3) - Comprehensive health education program; guidelines and restrictions.

D. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-168 - Nutrition standards for elementary (K-5) school food service meals and competitive foods.
2. R43-238 - Health education requirements.

E. State Board of Education Academic Standards:

1. 2014 SC Academic Standards for Physical Education.
2. 2009 Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education.
3. 2015 SC “Smart Snacks” and Exempt Fundraisers Memorandum.

F. Other References:

1. National Standards for Physical Education, SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators)
2. National Health Education Standards, Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards.
3. USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
4. USDA *Guide to Smart Snacks in School* (2016).
5. USDA Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs (2015).