The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 requires each school food authority (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) to develop a local wellness policy that promotes the health of students and addresses the growing problem of obesity.

To meet the requirements of a local wellness policy, SFAs must, at a minimum:

- Set goals for nutrition education.
- Set goals for physical activity.
- Set nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available on school campuses during the school day.
- Ensure that local guidelines for reimbursable school meals meet the program requirements and nutrition standards set forth by federal regulations.
- Set goals for other school-based activities designed to promote student wellness.
- Involve a broad group of members of the community.
- Draft a plan to measure the implementation of policies.
- Designate one or more persons within the SFA or at each school charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that each school fulfills the SFAs local wellness policy.

Dates for training SFAs about the local wellness policy will be provided at a further time.
Monitoring the Local Wellness Policy

Once local wellness policies are implemented they must be re-evaluated and updated on a continuing basis by the SFA.

The local wellness policy will be reviewed during Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) reviews to ensure that each SFA has a local wellness policy in place.

Resources

On October 18, 2005, the National Food Service Management Institute delivered a two-hour program on Local School Wellness Policy development for child nutrition professionals and other key players in the school and community. The program featured local school districts that have health and wellness efforts already underway.

Participant handouts and a link to view the program from your computer are available on the NFSMI Web site at http://www.nfsmi.org/Education/Satellite/ss37/program_info.htm.

You may borrow a DVD copy of the satellite program from the SNP Nutrition Library. Contact the library at 1-800-982-3261 or at www.snpnutritionlibrary.org for more information.

Additional resources to help SFAs develop their local wellness policy can be found at the following websites:

www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org

http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/wellnesspolicy.html

Adverse Action

If, during a CRE review SNP determines that the SFA does not have a wellness policy in place a corrective action plan with appropriate timeframes for completion will be required. Any SFA that fails to implement a local wellness policy will face adverse action up to and including termination of their NSLP/SBP agreement.

Authority

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) correspondence 2005-SP-16 and 2006-SP-05.

Contact

If you have any questions please contact your Area Program Office.