

AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRIENNIAL WELLNESS ASSESSMENT

In the spring of 2022 the Nutrition Services Director along with School Wellness Committee members, reviewed our current Local School Wellness Policy, to assess if our policy meets all the requirements set forth by the Federal Government, as well as how we are doing in practice when it comes to meeting our wellness goals. Avon does an excellent job in many areas. There are areas that need improvement. There are 4 different sections. Section 1 shows where we have both strong policies and strong practices in place. Section 2 shows areas where we have not yet met the goals set forth in our wellness policy and the implementation plan we have developed for these areas. Section 3 highlights areas where we are performing better than what our policy states. The Wellness Committee will use this section to update our policy to more accurately reflect our commitment to the wellness of our school community. Finally, Section 4 targets opportunities for growth. These are areas that we have not addressed extensively either in our policy or in our practices. This section will also be addressed as we work to update our policy. Attached is the WellSat Scorecard used to rank our policy and our practices. Avon received an excellent score of 99 points out of 100 points when looking at the total comprehensiveness and a score of 95 for total strength of actual practices of the policy itself. The Wellness Committee will work over the upcoming school year to continue to align our policy with best practices and to increase our focus on the wellness of our school community.




















Your District's Scorecard




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Version: 3.0

Policy Name: Avon

		WellsAT 3.0 Score	WellsAT-1 Score	
Strong Policies and Aligned Practices – District has a strong policy and is fully implementing practices that align with the policy				
NE1	Does the school district have specific goals for nutrition education designed to promote student wellness? Does this include a standards-based nutrition education curriculum?	2	2	☆
NE2	How would you describe the nutrition education you provide? Are didactic methods used to increase student knowledge? Are skills-based, behavior focused, and interactive/participatory methods used to develop student skills?	2	2	☆
IEC4	How is the wellness policy made available to the public? Is it available online? How often is the public informed where to find the policy?	2	2	☆
NE3	Do all elementary school students receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education?	2	2	☆
NE4	Do all middle school students receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education?	2	2	☆
NE5	Do all high school students receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education?	2	2	☆
NE7	Is nutrition education linked with the school food environment? If yes, what are some examples? [Examples include: teachers and food service staff collaborate in connecting nutrition education with the foods and beverages that are in school.]	2	2	☆
SM1	Have there been parts of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) regulations for breakfast or lunch that have been challenging to implement? If yes, are there features of the district's meal program that are not yet in compliance?	2	2	☆
SM2	Does the district offer breakfast? If yes, is breakfast offered every day? Is breakfast offered to all students? [Examples include: breakfast is only offered on testing days; only offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday; only offered in some schools.]	2	2	☆
SM3	How does your school ensure that children who are receiving free/reduced meals cannot be identified? How confident are you that it is not possible for the students to identify those who qualify for free or reduced lunch?	2	2	☆
SM4	How does the district handle unpaid balances? Follow up questions to determine if student is stigmatized: How are the student and parents notified? Is the student identified in the cafeteria? Is the student refused a meal, given a different meal, or given the regular meal?	2	2	☆
SM5	How are families provided information about eligibility for free/reduced priced meals? (If district provides universal free meals, score 2)	2	2	☆
SM6	Are specific strategies used to increase participation in the school meal programs? If yes, please describe. [Examples include: Smarter Lunchroom strategies; limiting competitive foods; requiring high school students have a scheduled lunch period; taste tests and student input; Grab-and-Go or Breakfast in the Classroom]	2	2	☆
SM7	How long are the breakfast (if applicable) and lunch periods? Within that time, how much time do students typically have to sit down and eat their meals.	2	2	☆
SM8	Is free (i.e., no cost to students) drinking water available to students during meals (i.e., do not include water for sale). Follow up questions can include: Does the cafeteria have water fountains? Are there a sufficient number of working water fountains? Can students take water back to the table or do they need to drink at the fountain? Do students perceive the water and fountains to be clean and safe?	2	2	☆
SM9	What is the frequency and amount of training provided to the food and nutrition staff? Does it meet the USDA Professional standards? (see below).	2	2	☆
SM10	Are you familiar with the farm to school program? In your district, is it a priority to procure locally produced foods for school meals and snacks? If yes, what efforts are made to increase local procurement? Are strategies used in the cafeterias to promote them?	2	2	☆
NS1	Are there any foods that are not part of the school meals (known as competitive foods) that are sold to students during the school day? If yes, how confident are you that all of these items meet Smart	2	2	

	Snacks nutrition standards?			
NS2	Do you know where to access the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards to check and see if an item can be sold in school during the school day? Can you tell me how you do this?	2	2	
NS3	Are there competitive foods/beverages sold a la carte in the cafeteria during the school day? If yes, how confident are you that all of these items meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards?	2	2	
NS4	Are there food or beverage vending machines on school property accessible to students during the school day? If yes, how confident are you that all of these items meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards? (Optional follow up questions - Who receives the money from the vending machines? Who is responsible for ensuring all items in the vending machines meet Smart Snacks regulations?)	2	2	
NS5	Are there food or beverages sold in school stores during the school day? If yes, how confident are you that all of these items meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards? (Optional follow up questions - Who receives the money from the school stores? Who is responsible for ensuring all items for ensuring all items in the school stores meet Smart Snacks regulations?)	2	2	
NS6	Are there food or beverage fundraisers that sell items to be consumed during the school day? If yes, who is in charge of approving in-school fundraising activities? How confident are you that the people conducting fundraisers understand Smart Snacks nutrition standards? How confident are you that items sold in fundraisers meet Smart Snacks standards? (Note: Some states have passed regulation permitting exemptions from the federal law prohibiting non-Smart Snack fundraisers during the school day – this is addressed in the next question).	2	2	
NS7	(Before asking this question look up the state policy on fundraiser exemptions at the bottom of this page: https://www.ihrp.uic.edu/content/research-products-national-wellness-policy-study . If 0 exemptions, item is n/a). Your state [fill in] has adopted an exemption policy that allows for [fill in] school-sponsored fundraisers during which foods and beverages sold do not have to meet Smart Snacks. Are you familiar with this state law?	2	2	
NS8	Are foods or beverages containing caffeine sold at the high school level?	2	2	
NS9	How often do food-based celebrations occur during the school day in elementary schools (e.g., birthday parties, holiday parties)? Does the district have nutrition standards (such as Smart Snacks) that regulate what can be served? How are these regulations communicated? How confident are you that the regulations are followed consistently? If food-based celebrations are not permitted, how confident are you that they do not occur?	2	2	
NS10	Are foods or beverages served (not sold) to students after the school day on school grounds, including before/after care, clubs, and afterschool programming? If yes, does the district have nutrition standards (such as Smart Snacks or CACFP) that regulate what can be served? How are these regulations communicated to the adults running the activities? How confident are you that the regulations are followed consistently?	2	2	
NS11	Addresses nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold (not served) to students after the school day, including before/after care on school grounds, clubs, and after school programming	2	2	
NS12	Do teachers use food as a reward in the classroom for good student behavior (e.g., giving out candy for a right answer; having a pizza party when students finish a unit).	2	2	
NS13	Do students have consistent and easy access to water throughout the school day? If yes, how? Follow up questions: Are students are permitted to carry water bottles with them throughout the school day? Are there water fountains or free water filling stations throughout the school? Is bottled water is for sale during the school day?	2	2	
PEPA1	Does the district have a written physical education curriculum that is implemented consistently for every grade?	2	2	
PEPA2	Does the district have a written physical education curriculum that is aligned with national and/or state standards?	2	2	
PEPA3	How does your physical education program promote a physically active lifestyle? [Examples include: follows NASPE standards; focuses on self-assessment through a "Fitnessgram" or "Activitygram"; teaches skills needed for lifelong physical fitness.]	2	2	
PEPA12	Are there opportunities for all students to engage in physical activity before and after school? If yes, please describe. How frequently does this occur?	2	2	
PEPA13	Is there daily recess for all grades in elementary school? If no, how many days per week is recess offered, and for which grades? How long is recess when it is offered? Note: Best practices for recess: a) it is at least 20 minutes per day; b) it is supervised by trained teachers or staff encouraging students to be active; and c) students have access to safe and appropriate physical activity equipment.	2	2	
WPM2	Are there strategies used by the school to support employee wellness? Please describe. Examples: "Health and wellness classes are offered to staff." "School physical activity equipment is available for use by staff before or after school to support employee wellness." "Free water and healthy snacks are available in the staff break room."	2	2	

WPM4	Do teachers ever use physical activity as a punishment? [Examples include: telling students to run extra laps or do other physical activities as behavioral consequence.]	2	2	☆
WPM5	Do teachers ever withhold physical activity as a classroom management tool? [Examples include: taking away recess, taking away PE, or requiring students to sit in one place for an extended period of time.]	2	2	☆
WPM6	Are marketing strategies used to promote healthy food and beverage choices in school? If yes, what foods and beverages are promoted, and how is it done? (Examples of promotion include advertisements, better pricing, and more accessible placement of the healthier items).	2	2	☆
WPM7	Is there food or beverage marketing on the school campus during the school day? If yes, do the marketed items meet Smart Snacks criteria?	2	2	☆
WPM10	Is there food or beverage marketing where food is purchased (e.g., logos on exteriors of vending machines, food or beverage cups or containers, food display racks, coolers, or trash and recycling containers)? If yes, do the marketed items meet Smart Snacks criteria?	2	2	☆
WPM11	Is there food or beverage marketing in school publications and media (e.g., advertisements in school publications, school radio stations, in-school television, computer screen savers, school-sponsored Internet sites, and announcements on the public announcement (PA) system)? If yes, do the marketed items meet Smart Snacks criteria?	2	2	☆
WPM12	Is there food or beverage marketing through fundraisers and corporate-incentive programs? Examples include: fundraising programs encourage students and their families to sell, purchase, or consume products, and corporate incentive programs provide funds to schools in exchange for proof of purchase of company products, such as Box Tops for Education. If the school participates in food or beverage fundraisers, do they occur on or off campus, and during or outside the school day? Do all products for sale meet Smart Snacks criteria?	2	2	☆
IEC1	Is there an active district level wellness committee? Note: This may also be called a health advisory committee or other similar name. If yes, how frequently does the committee meet?	2	2	☆
IEC2	Which groups are represented on the district level wellness committee? (check all that apply). Note an individual can represent more than one role. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents • Students • School Food Authority representative • PE Teacher • School Health Professional (nurse, social worker, school psychologist) • School Board Member • School Administrator • Community member 	2	2	☆
IEC3	Is there an official who is responsible for the implementation and compliance with the wellness policy at the building level for each school? If yes, who are those individuals? How do they ensure compliance?	2	2	☆
IEC5	How does the committee assess implementation of the wellness policy? How often does this assessment occur? [Examples of evaluation tools are: the CDC's School Health Index, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation checklist, local or state policy implementation checklists, or the current interview.]	2	2	☆
IEC6	What is included in the triennial assessment report to the public? Ask to see documentation if available. Note: the requirement is to include: 1. The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the LEA are in compliance with the local school wellness policy; 2. The extent to which the LEA's local school wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies; 3. A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the local school wellness policy.	2	2	☆
IEC7	Has the wellness policy been revised based on the triennial assessment? If yes, what process did the committee use to decide what to revise?	2	2	☆
IEC8	Is there an active school level wellness committee? (Note: This may also be called a school health team, school health advisory committee, or similar name) If yes, how frequently does the committee meet?	2	2	☆
Create Practice Implementation Plan – District has a strong or weak policy, but practice implementation is either absent or limited				
NE6	Is nutrition education integrated into other subjects beyond health education? If yes, what are some examples? [Examples include: using nutrition facts labels to learn percentages; using a vegetable garden to learn plant biology.]	2	0	
NE8	Does nutrition education address agriculture and the food system?	2	0	
PEPA4	How many minutes per week of PE does each grade in elementary school receive? Note: NASPE recommends that schools provide 150 minutes of instructional PE for elementary school children per week for the entire school year.	2	0	

PEPA5	How many minutes per week of PE does each grade in middle school receive? Note: NASPE recommends that schools provide 225 minutes of instructional physical education for middle school students per week for the entire school year.	2	0	
PEPA6	How many minutes per week of PE does each grade in high school receive? Note: NASPE recommends that schools provide 225 minutes of instructional physical education for middle school students per week for the entire school year.	2	0	
PEPA11	Are there opportunities for families and community members to engage in physical activity at school? If yes, please describe. How frequently does this occur?	2	0	
PEPA14	Do teachers provide regular physical activity breaks for students in the classroom? If yes, please describe. How frequently do they occur? Do all teachers conduct physical activity breaks with their students?	2	1	
PEPA16	What proportion of students walk or bike to school? How frequently do they do that?	2	1	
WPM1	Are school staff encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors in front of students? If yes, how does the school encourage this behavior? [Examples include: Provides staff with opportunities to eat healthfully such as subsidized fruits, vegetables, and water in the cafeteria or lounge; Advises staff not to consume sugary drinks at school; Encourages teachers to be active with students.]	2	0	
WPM3	Are teachers encouraged to use physical activity as a reward for students? For example, providing extra recess, taking a walk around the school, or playing an active game in the classroom.	2	1	
Update Policies – District is fully implementing a practice but there is no or only weak language in the written policy, or the district is partially implementing practices and there is no language in the policy				
PEPA7	Are all physical education classes taught by state certified/licensed teachers who are endorsed to teach physical education?	0	2	
PEPA9	A PE exemption is when students are permitted to not take PE because of enrollment in other courses such as math, science or vocational training. This does not include exemptions due to disability, religious or medical reasons. What percentage of students do you estimate do not take PE each year due to exemptions?	0	2	
PEPA10	A PE substitution is when students are permitted to not take PE because they are engaged in another physical activity such as JORTC or other school sports. What percentage of students do you estimate do not take PE each year due to substitutions?	0	2	
PEPA15	When school is not in session, do community members use indoor and outdoor school building and grounds facilities? Does the district have a "joint-use" or "shared-use" agreements? (Note if answer is yes or no).	1	2	
WPM9	Is there food or beverage marketing on educational materials (e.g., curricula, textbooks, or other printed or electronic educational materials)? If yes, do the marketed items meet Smart Snacks criteria?	0	2	
Opportunities for Growth – District has either not addressed the topic in policy or practice; or has only addressed the topic in a very limited way				
PEPA8	Is ongoing professional development offered every year for PE teachers that is relevant and specific to physical education?	0	1	
WPM8	Is there food or beverage marketing on school property (e.g., signs, scoreboards, or sports equipment)? If yes, do the marketed items meet Smart Snacks criteria? If they do not meet Smart Snacks criteria, will this change when there is a renewal of the sponsorship agreement?	1	1	

Strong Policies and Aligned Practices – District has a strong policy and is fully implementing practices that align with the policy

Create Practice Implementation Plan – District has a strong or weak policy, but practice implementation is either absent or limited

Update Policies – District is fully implementing a practice but there is no or only weak language in the written policy, or the district is partially implementing practices and there is no language in the policy

Opportunities for Growth – District has either not addressed the topic in policy or practice; or has only addressed the topic in a very limited way

- NE** Nutrition Education
- SM** Standards for USDA Child Nutrition Programs and School Meals
- NS** Nutrition Standards for Competitive and Other Foods and Beverages
- PEPA** Physical Education and Physical Activity
- WPM** Wellness Promotion and Marketing

WORKSHEET 4: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This worksheet can be used to create narrative descriptions to post alongside sections from **Worksheet 3: Identifying Connections between Policy and Practice**. The purpose of these narratives is to describe the district's progress toward meeting their wellness goals. Not all districts will have information to share in all four sections.



SECTION 1: STRONG POLICIES AND ALIGNED PRACTICES

Avon Public Schools is in full compliance with all of the federal requirements that regulate school meals and competitive foods. We also offer the National School Breakfast Program daily in all schools. The district is also Healthy Food Certified through the Connecticut State Department of Education. Nutrition Services Staff receives professional development training annually. We offer fresh produce daily from local farms. Our meals are prepared fresh and we encourage batch cooking and scratch cooking. The district provides a standards-based nutrition education curriculum. The district's physical education curriculum is aligned with national and state standards. Our School Wellness Committee includes parents, students, Director of Nutrition Services, PE teacher, School Health Professional, School Administrator and Community members.



SECTION 2: CREATE PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Wellness Committee will investigate ways to increase nutrition education into other subjects beyond health education. We will look at the amount of PE per week for all students. Is there a way to add physical activity breaks to the day? Also, increasing ways to include physical education as a reward for students will be looked at. Marketing of healthy food choices will be increased throughout the buildings. Assuring compliance of the wellness policy at the building level for each school will be a priority of the committee. The nutritional value of foods being brought in for celebrations will be addressed. The District Wellness Policy will begin meeting again. We will assure the committee includes all required members.



SECTION 3: UPDATE POLICIES

There are areas of concern that the committee will address when looking at the possibility of updating the district Wellness Policy. Areas of focus include; professional development relevant to physical education,

increased support of employee wellness and increased availability for the community when school is not in session. Physical education being used for a reward and not being used for punishment is an area to be added. Food and beverage fundraiser guidelines will be clarified.



SECTION 4: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

The Wellness Committee will also investigate areas where growth is encouraged. Staff modeling and encouraging healthy eating and physical activity, and marketing of healthy eating and physical activity will be areas of focus.