

Wellness Policy on Physical Activity and Nutrition

Greenville Renewable Energy Education (GREEN) Charter Schools are committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. GREEN Charter Schools are committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and development of lifelong wellness practices of each student and to provide guidance in the areas of nutrition, health, physical activity and food service. It is the goal of GREEN Charter Schools to improve the overall health of students by decreasing the number of students identified as overweight or at risk of becoming overweight by promoting healthy eating choices, nutrition education and physical activity.

Therefore, it is the policy of GREEN Charter Schools that:

- The school will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing nutrition and physical activity policies.
- Students cannot leave the school campus.
- All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the *Smart Snacks Standards*.
- Qualified child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; will accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat under adequate adult supervision.
- Student will have access to potable water always.
- Students are allowed to converse with one another while they eat their meals.
- To the maximum extent practicable, GREEN Charter Schools will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the National School Lunch Program).
- GREEN Charter Schools assure that guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by USDA.
- GREEN Charter Schools will have a fully implemented food safety program in place, i.e., HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points).
- GREEN Charter Schools 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.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

Academic performance and quality of life issues are affected by the choice and availability of good foods in our schools. Healthy foods support student physical growth, brain development, resistance to disease, emotional stability and ability to learn.

Nutrition guidelines that require the use of products that are high in fiber, low in added fats, sugar and sodium, and served in appropriate portion sizes consistent with USDA standards will be established for all foods offered by the district's Nutrition Services Department or contracted vendors. Menu and product selection will utilize student, parent, staff and community advisory groups whenever possible.

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch Program will:

- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings with adequate seating to accommodate all students during each lunch period;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations; Menus will meet the nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of South Carolina Department of Education, conforming to appropriate menu planning principles, and featuring a variety of healthy choices that are tasty, attractive, the best possible quality, and are served at the proper temperature.
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables as defined by USDA;
 - Dark green vegetables
 - Red/orange vegetables
 - Beans/peas (legumes)
 - Starchy vegetables
 - Other vegetables
- serve only low-fat (1%) unflavored milk, and fat-free (skim) unflavored milk, or fat-free flavored milk as defined by USDA
- will offer grain daily at breakfast and ensure that half of the served grains are whole grain rich.
- will offer at least one fruit and/or one vegetable.
- will offer choice of entrees.

GREEN Charter Schools will engage students and parents in selecting foods sold through the school meal programs in order to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices. In addition, schools will share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students.

Free and Reduced-priced Meals

GREEN Charter Schools 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; promote the availability of school meals to all students;

Meal Times and Scheduling

GREEN Charter Schools will make every effort to:

- provide students with at least 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch or breakfast;
- schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 11:15 a.m. and 01:15 p.m.;
- not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
- provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and
- take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the school's responsibility to operate a food service program, we will require continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals. Professional development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for nutrition directors, school nutrition managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages

GREEN Charter Schools will discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Fundraising Activities

GREEN Charter Schools, to support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, will request that school fundraising activities should not involve food or should use only foods that meet the Smart Snacks Standards. Any fundraising activities involving the sale of food or beverages do not take place until after the end of the last lunch period. GREEN Charter Schools

will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. Schools will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

Snacks

Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. The schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other considerations. Snacks in all after school programs meet USDA guidelines per serving. The schools will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

Rewards

GREEN Charter Schools will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually, as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations

GREEN Charter Schools will limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually. The schools will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

School-sponsored Events (such as, athletic events, dances, or performances)

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day will meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually.

II. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion

GREEN Charter Schools aim to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools will make an effort to provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered at each grade level 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 taught by teachers who hold a certification from the South Carolina State Department of Education that allows them to teach health education.
- all food and beverage items promoted on school campus during the school day will meet Smart Snacks Standards
- is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;

- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- promotes to start each day with a healthful breakfast and to choose nutritious foods throughout the day.
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- provides information on calories, percentages of fat, and serving sizes of school meal items to help children select appropriate portions of food.
- is encouraged with displaying attractive, current nutrition education materials in dining areas that are changed at least every 9 weeks.
- links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing; and
- includes training for teachers and other staff.
- all fundraising on school campus during the school day will be meet Smart Snacks standards with the only exception of 1 – 30 days allowed by the State Department of Education (Please see the memorandum below)

<https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/school-district-memoranda-archive/information-package-for-smart-snacks-exempt-fundraisers/smart-snacks-exempt-fundraisers/>

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting

For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class.

Toward that end:

- classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- opportunities for physical activity may be incorporated into other subject lessons; and
- Elementary students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors. Classroom teachers may provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

In order to measure and evaluate physical education and nutrition education program, physical/health education classes will be the primary sources, GREEN Charter Schools will make sure;

- physical education/health classes are taught by a qualified teacher who is certified by the South Carolina Department of Education to teach physical education.
- students receive formal instruction in physical/health education: 225 minutes per week for at least 3 class periods per week for all grades the entire school year
- 150 minutes a week of physical education, at least 60 minutes of it in PE Class, is provided
- physical education/health class size is similar to other content areas to ensure safe, effective instruction
- there is adequate age-appropriate equipment for every student to be active
- appropriate technology is incorporated on a regular and continuing basis
- indoor and outdoor equipment, facilities and activities are safe and enjoyable for all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- there is a curriculum based on state and/or national standards for physical/health education
- formative and summative assessments of student learning are included in the physical education/health program
- the program provides for maximum participation for every student (e.g., inclusion, no elimination games, all students active at once, developmentally appropriate activities, etc)
- physical education teachers regularly participate in physical education professional development activities and have memberships in related professional organizations
- there is regular periodic evaluation by administrators of the physical education/health program and teacher performance
- physical activity is not used or withheld as punishment during regular class periods.

Communications with Parents

GREEN Charter Schools will support parent efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children, and the parents are invited join students for school meals. Schools will encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the above nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. Also, schools will encourage input regarding the selection of food items by promoting and encouraging student and parent participation in taste-testing events, menu-review panels, and online recipe reviews. The schools may provide parents a list of foods that meet the schools' snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities.

In addition, schools may provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community.

Information is provided to help families incorporate physical activity into the lives of all household members. Schools will report individual student fitness status to parents/guardians during fifth and upper grade PE courses. In addition, the schools will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

III. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Physical Education (P.E.)

All students in grades K-12, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive physical education, and all will have the opportunity to participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity on a regularly scheduled basis each school week during the entire school year. PE Classes will have a student to teacher ratio that is the same as other class and not exceed an average of 28:1. All physical education will be taught by a certified physical education teacher. The student to certified PE teacher ratio will not exceed 500 to 1. Student involvement in other activities involving physical activity (e.g., interscholastic or intramural sports) will not be substituted for meeting the physical education requirement. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School

GREEN Charter Schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. Additionally, GREEN Charter Schools, will offer interscholastic sports programs. The school will offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including boys, girls, students with disabilities, and students with special health-care needs.

After-school child care and enrichment programs will provide and encourage – verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and activities – daily periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity for all participants.

IV. Monitoring, Policy Review and Partnership

Monitoring

GREEN Charter Schools, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school. School food service staff, at the school level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter (to the school principal). The effectiveness of the GREEN Charter Schools wellness policy will be evaluated and the results will be presented to the Governing School Board with the recommended revisions annually.

Record Keeping

GREEN Charter Schools will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. Documentation maintained by the district will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- 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 district uses to make stakeholders aware of their
- ability to participate on GREEN Charter Schools wellness committee

- 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

Policy Review and Implementation

Assessments will be repeated every year (annually) to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, GREEN Charter Schools will review our nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. Schools will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.

Procedures for public input and revisions

GREEN Charter Schools put announcements to the school newsletter, website and place signs in school to inform the parents about the wellness policy presentation to have input. The policy has also been sent to designated teachers, PE, Health, and Science for feedback.

For ongoing input; the policy will be placed to the school website where the public will have access to view the board approved policy. In that website, the public and school staff will have a chance to provide ongoing input for areas in need of improvement by writing to school administration. Those who do not have web access may turn-in their input to the school office. Annually, all feedback coming from public and school staff will be evaluated and incorporated to the policy and will be presented to the Board. After getting final inputs from the Board, the reviewed policy will be on effect.

USDA Non Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at

(800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

GREEN Charter Schools are equal opportunity provider and employer!

Wellness Committee

A primary goal will be to engage family members, students, the Governing Board, school administrators, and the public in development and regular review of this school policy. Following people involve in developing and monitoring the GREEN Charter Schools wellness policy:

Student Government Club (Students)
Parent Volunteer Organization
Adem Dokmeci (Executive Director)
Murat Sahin (Business Manager)
Malana Fitzgerald (Assistant Principal)
Kristine Smith (Lunch/Breakfast coordinator)
Tricia Vanslyke (Physical Education Teacher)
Kenya Farley (School Nurse)