

# Meridell Achievement Center Wellness Policy

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# Meridell Achievement Center Wellness Policy

## Preamble

Meridell Achievement Center (hereto referred to as MAC) is committed to the optimal development of every student. MAC believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during, and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students.<sup>8,9,10</sup> In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education, and extracurricular activities – do better academically.<sup>11,12,13,14</sup>

This policy outlines MAC's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in MAC have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus—in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and after school;
- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of MAC in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- MAC establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff, and schools in MAC.

## **I. School Wellness Committee**

### ***Committee Role and Membership***

MAC will convene a representative wellness committee (hereto referred to as the WC) that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies

and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The WC membership will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (ex., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (ex., health education teachers, school health services staff [i.e., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services], and mental health and social services staff [i.e., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists]; school administrators (ex., superintendent, principal, vice principal), school board members; health professionals (ex., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public. To the extent possible, the WC will include representatives multiple grade levels and reflect the diversity of the community.

**Leadership**

The CEO or designee(s) will convene the WC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure facility compliance with the policy.

The name(s), title(s), and contact information (email address is sufficient) of this/these individual(s) is/are:

Name	Title	Email address	Role
Jon Perkins	CEO	Jon.Perkins@uhsinc.com	Oversees facility operations
Bryan West	Plant Operations Manager	<a href="mailto:bryan.west@uhsinc.com">bryan.west@uhsinc.com</a>	Oversee food distribution, nutrition and plant/facility management.
Brittney Majefsky	Director of Nursing	<a href="mailto:Brittney.majefsky@uhsinc.com">Brittney.majefsky@uhsinc.com</a>	Oversee health fair and other relevant health, safety and nutrition issues
Susan Ivester	Contract Dietician		Oversee nutritional assessments and recommendations
Adrienne Durham	Ki Charter School Principal	Adrienne.durham@kicharter.org	Oversee educational services

Heather Robison	Director of Clinical Services	<a href="mailto:Heather.robison@uhsinc.com">Heather.robison@uhsinc.com</a>	Oversees clinical therapy services and assists in organization and activities of food program
Student Council members – TBD	Varies based on current membership		Group of resident leaders that represent patient perspective and advocate for improvements

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy. Refer to Appendix A for a list of school level wellness policy coordinators.

## **II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, and Community Engagement**

### ***Implementation Plan***

MAC will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and timelines, and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where, and when, as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. It is recommended that the school use the [Healthy Schools Program online tools](#) to complete a school level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation, and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at:  
[www.meridellachievementcenter.com](http://www.meridellachievementcenter.com).

### ***Recordkeeping***

MAC will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at Director of Clinical Services office and/or on she shared drive network. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including (1) Efforts to actively solicit WC membership from the required stakeholder groups;

and (2) These groups' participation in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy;

- Documentation of annual policy progress reports for each school under its jurisdiction; and
- Documentation of the triennial assessment\* of the policy for each school under its jurisdiction;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with public notification requirements, including: (1) Methods by which the wellness policy, annual progress reports, and triennial assessments are made available to the public; and (2) Efforts to actively notify families about the availability of wellness policy.

### **Annual Progress Reports**

MAC will compile and publish an annual report to share basic information about the wellness policy and report on the progress of the schools within MAC in meeting wellness goals. This annual report will be published around the same time each year August. This report will include, but is not limited to:

- The website address for the wellness policy and/or how the public can receive/access a copy of the wellness policy;
- A description of each school's progress in meeting the wellness policy goals;
- A summary of each school's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation;
- The name, position title, and contact information of the designated District policy leader(s) identified in Section I; and
- Information on how individuals and the public can get involved with the WC or SWC.

The annual report will be available in English.

MAC will actively notify households/families of the availability of the annual report.

The WC, will establish and monitor goals and objectives for MAC's schools, specific and appropriate for each instructional unit (elementary or secondary OR elementary, middle, and high school, as appropriate), for each of the content-specific components listed in Sections III-V of this policy.

- *MAC will track, analyze, and report on any correlations between improvements in health-promoting environments with education outcomes, such as absenteeism, disciplinary referrals, test scores, average grades, or health measures such as consumption of whole grains, fruits, or vegetables through the school meal programs or BMI, or psycho-social measures such as self-reported "connectedness," or other school climate measures. MAC is encouraged to collaborate with local research institutions and universities.*
- *MAC will also track and annually report other related information, such as findings from food safety inspections, aggregate participation in school meals programs, income reported from competitive food sales, fundraising revenues, and other such information, as feasible.]*

### **Triennial Progress Assessments**

At least once every three years, MAC will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of MAC are in compliance with the wellness policy;

- The extent to which MAC's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of MAC's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Bryan West, Plant Operations Manager, 512-528-2170.

The WC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

MAC will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

### ***Revisions and Updating the Policy***

The WC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual progress reports and triennial assessments, and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

### ***Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications***

MAC is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. MAC will actively communicate ways in which representatives of WC and others can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. MAC will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. MAC will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on MAC's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. MAC will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that MAC and individual schools are communicating other important school information with parents.

MAC will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. MAC will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

## **III. Nutrition**

### ***School Meals***

Our school district is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meet 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 cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

All schools within MAC participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). MAC is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, 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. (MAC offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):
  - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans)
  - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily
  - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students
  - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names
  - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab and go meals available to students
  - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal
  - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers
  - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas
  - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.)
  - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas
  - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas
  - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options

*Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.*

- *MAC will implement at least four of the following five Farm to School activities (meets HSP Gold level; mark/circle the four activities MAC plans to do):*
  - *Local and/or regional products are incorporated into the school meal program;*
  - *Messages about agriculture and nutrition are reinforced throughout the learning environment;*
  - *School hosts a school garden;*
  - *School hosts field trips to local farms; and*
  - *School utilizes promotions or special events, such as tastings, that highlight the local/regional products.]*

### **Staff Qualifications and Professional Development**

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs.

## **Water**

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day\* and throughout every school campus\* (“school campus” and “school day” are defined in the glossary). MAC will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. In addition, students will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

- *Water cups/jugs will be available in the cafeteria if a drinking fountain is not present.*
- *All water sources and containers will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene standards. Such sources and containers may include drinking fountains, water jugs, hydration stations, water jets, and other methods for delivering drinking water.*

## **Competitive Foods and Beverages**

MAC is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus\* during the school day\* support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (i.e., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information are available at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at [www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks).

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, and snack or food carts.

## **Celebrations and Rewards**

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. MAC will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. MAC will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards; and
3. Rewards and incentives. MAC will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

*[Meets HSP Silver]*

## **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 and teachers, parents, students, and the community.

MAC will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#); and
- Promoting foods and beverages that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional possible promotion techniques that MAC and individual schools may use are available at [www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks).

### **Nutrition Education**

MAC aims to teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Link with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- Teach media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Include nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

*[Optional additional policy language includes:*

- *In elementary schools, nutrition education will be offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based health education curriculum that meets state and national standards (meets HSP Silver/Gold level).*
- *All health education teachers will provide opportunities for students to practice or rehearse the skills taught through the health education curricula (meets HSP Silver/Gold level).]*

### **Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education**

MAC will include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- The relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- Reading and using USDA's food labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

[USDA's Team Nutrition](#) provides free nutrition education and promotion materials, including standards-based nutrition education curricula and lesson plans, posters, interactive games, menu graphics, and more.

### ***Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools***

MAC 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. MAC 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 District property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information MAC is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of MAC to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with MAC'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.

Food advertising and marketing is defined<sup>15</sup> as an 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.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors.
- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards, or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items are not required; however, districts will consider replacing or updating scoreboards or other durable equipment over time so that decisions about the replacement include compliance with the marketing 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 MAC.
- 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.

#### **IV. Physical Activity**

Children and adolescents should participate in 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive, school-based physical activity program (CSPAP) that includes these components: physical education, recess, classroom-based physical activity, walk and bicycle to school, and out-of-school time activities and MAC is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). All schools in MAC will be encouraged to participate in *Let's Move! Active Schools* ([www.letsmoveschools.org](http://www.letsmoveschools.org)) in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, physical activity breaks, or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason **and any limitations due to safety or health reasons will be made with a written physician order**. MAC will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline students.

To the extent practicable, MAC will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. MAC will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

- *MAC will work with schools to ensure that inventories of physical activity supplies are known and, when necessary, will work with community partners to ensure sufficient quantities of equipment are available to encourage activity for as many students as possible.*

#### ***Physical Education***

MAC 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, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the “*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*” subsection).

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. MAC will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

**All [District] secondary students (middle and high school) are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.**

*[NOTE: For additional rigor, optional language substitutions include: All [District] secondary students (middle and high school) are required to take more than one academic year of physical education (meets HSP Silver level). OR All [District] secondary students (middle and high school) are required to take physical education throughout all secondary school years (meets HSP Gold level).]*

MAC physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

- *Students will be moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of class time during most or all physical education class sessions (meets HSP Silver level).*
- *All physical education teachers in [District] will be required to participate in at least once a year professional development in education (meets HSP Silver level).*
- *All physical education classes in [District] are taught by licensed teachers who are certified or endorsed to teach physical education (meets HSP Gold level).*
- *Waivers, exemptions, or substitutions for physical education classes are not granted.*

### **Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education**

MAC will include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on physical activity: **[insert: when health education is taught OR semesters when student is enrolled in health or physical education OR in all year(s) of school.]**

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise, and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout, and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia, and sunburn while being physically active

- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time, and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity

### ***Physical Activity Breaks (Secondary)***

MAC recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. MAC recommends teachers provide short (3-5 minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

MAC will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through [USDA](#) and the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#).

### ***Active Academics***

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies, and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

MAC will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

### ***Before and After School Activities***

MAC offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods. MAC will encourage students to be physically active before and after school by: incorporating structured physical and recreational activities into daily schedules for school and afterschool residential time; providing outdoor spaces, equipment and activities to encourage physical activity during group and family interaction time; and utilizing recreational therapy resources to organize special events and athletic games throughout the year.

### ***Active Transport***

MAC will support active transport to and from school. Given the large campus layout on 63 acres, all students get ample active transport time throughout the day as they transition from the

unit to school and other campus buildings for classes, meals and testing. MAC will encourage this behavior by engaging in *six or more* of the activities below; including but not limited to:

- Designation of safe or preferred routes to school
- Promotional activities such as participation in International Walk to School Week, National Walk and Bike to School Week
- Safe routes to school created by sidewalks across campus and supervision by direct care staff
- Documentation of number of children walking and or biking to and from school
- Creation and distribution of maps of school environment (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, roads, pathways, bike racks, etc.)

This seems n/a because all children walk to school and does not require promotion.

## **V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness**

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

Schools in MAC are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the school or MAC's curriculum experts.

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 WC/SWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity opportunities.

### ***Community Partnerships***

MAC will continue to develop relationships with community partners (i.e. hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, etc.) 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.

### ***Community Health Promotion and Engagement***

MAC will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the “Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications” subsection, MAC will use electronic mechanisms (such as email or displaying notices on MAC’s website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (such as 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 WC will 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 subcommittee leader’s name is Ray Heckerman.

Schools in MAC will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. **Examples of strategies schools will use, as well as specific actions staff members can take, include providing free healthy meals for direct care staff, providing healthy vending machine options and access to fruit on the unit, and providing on campus wellness activities to include a workout room and walking trail.** MAC promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost.

- *MAC will use a healthy meeting policy for all events with available food options, created by the SWC/WC or one that currently exists that optimizes healthy food options with a variety of choices and selections of healthy foods for a variety of dietary needs.*

### **Professional Learning**

When feasible, MAC will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

*Glossary:*

**Extended School Day** - time during before and afterschool activities that includes clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals, etc.

**School Campus** - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities such as the school building or on the school campus, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields, and stadiums (e.g. on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

**School Day** - midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

**Triennial** – recurring every three years.



## Appendix A: School Level Contacts

School	Name	Title	Email Address	Role

<sup>1</sup> Bradley, B, Green, AC. Do Health and Education Agencies in the United States Share Responsibility for Academic Achievement and Health? A Review of 25 years of Evidence About the Relationship of Adolescents' Academic Achievement and Health Behaviors, *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2013; 52(5):523–532.

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<sup>3</sup> Murphy JM. Breakfast and learning: an updated review. *Current Nutrition & Food Science*. 2007; 3:3–36.

<sup>4</sup> Murphy JM, Pagano ME, Nachmani J, Sperling P, Kane S, Kleinman RE. The relationship of school breakfast to psychosocial and academic functioning: Cross-sectional and longitudinal observations in an inner-city school sample. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. 1998;152(9):899–907.

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<sup>8</sup> MacLellan D, Taylor J, Wood K. Food intake and academic performance among adolescents. *Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research*. 2008;69(3):141–144.

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<sup>10</sup> Neumark-Sztainer D, Story M, Resnick MD, Blum RW. Correlates of inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption among adolescents. *Preventive Medicine*. 1996;25(5):497–505.

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<sup>13</sup> Haapala E, Poikkeus A-M, Kukkonen-Harjula K, Tompuri T, Lintu N, Väistö J, Leppänen P, Laaksonen D, Lindi V, Lakka T. *Association of physical activity and sedentary behavior with academic skills – A follow-up study among primary school children*. *PLoS ONE*, 2014; 9(9): e107031.

<sup>14</sup> Hillman C, Pontifex M, Castelli D, Khan N, Raine L, Scudder M, Drollette E, Moore R, Wu C-T, Kamijo K. *Effects of the FITKids randomized control trial on executive control and brain function*. *Pediatrics* 2014; 134(4): e1063-1071.

<sup>15</sup> Change Lab Solutions. (2014). *District Policy Restricting the Advertising of Food and Beverages Not Permitted to be Sold on School Grounds*. Retrieved from <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/district-policy-school-food-ads>.