Action for Healthy Kids’ School Health Index
Middle/High School Version

To complete the School Health Index online, please visit www.afhkschoolportal.force.com.

School Wellness Environment

1. School health oversight

Currently, does someone at your school oversee or coordinate school health programs and activities?

3 = Yes
0 = No

2. Representative school health committee or team

Does your school have a representative committee or team that meets at least four times a year and oversees school health and safety policies and programs?

3 = Yes.
2 = There is a committee or team that does this, but it could be more representative.
1 = There is a committee or team, but it is not representative, or it meets less often than four times a year.
0 = No.

3. Local wellness policy

Has your school implemented the following components of the local education agency’s (LEA) or district’s local school wellness policy?

- Specific goals for nutrition education and promotion activities
- Specific goals for physical activity opportunities
- Specific goals for other school-based activities that promote student wellness
- Nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold on the school campus during the school day that are consistent with Federal regulations for school meals and Smart Snacks in School
- Standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day (e.g., in classroom parties or classroom snacks brought by parents)
- Policies for marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards on the school campus during the school day.
- Permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and review and update of the local school wellness policy
- Identified one or more school district and/or school official(s) who have the authority and responsibility to ensure each school complies with the policy
- Informed and updated the public (including parents, students, and others in the community) about the local school wellness policy on an annual basis
- At least once every three years, measure:
  - the extent to which schools are in compliance with the local school wellness policy,
  - the extent to which the local education agency’s local wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies, and
  - the progress made in attaining the goals of the local wellness policy, and made this assessment available to the public.

NOTE: By the start of the 2006-2007 school year, every school district participating in the Federal meal program was required to establish a local school wellness policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, beginning
July 1, 2014, USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, allowed schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food. (See http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/allfoods_flyer.pdf). USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards are practical, science-based nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards were updated in 2016. Your school health team should review your district’s local wellness policy before completing this question.

3 = Yes, our school has implemented all of these components.
2 = Our school has implemented most of these components.
1 = Our school has implemented a few of these components.
0 = No, we have not implemented any of these components, or our policy does not include any of these components, or our district does not have a local wellness policy.

4.  School health action plan

Does your school have an action plan that serves as a road map for health and wellness initiatives?

3 = Yes
0 = No

5.  Positive school climate

Does your school foster a positive psychosocial school climate using all of the following practices?

✓ Communicate clear expectations for learning and behavior to students, and share those expectations with families to encourage them to reinforce them at home
✓ Foster pro-social behavior by engaging students in activities such as peer tutoring, classroom chores, service learning, and teacher assistance
✓ Foster an appreciation of student and family diversity and respect for all families’ cultural beliefs and practices
✓ Hold school-wide activities that give students opportunities to learn about diverse cultures and experiences
✓ Use instructional materials that reflect the diversity of your student body
✓ Establish an expectation that staff members to greet each student by name
✓ Expect staff members to encourage students to ask for help when needed
✓ Expect staff members to take timely action to solve problems reported by students or parents
✓ Expect staff members to praise positive student behavior to students and their parents

3 = Yes, our school fosters a positive psychosocial school climate by using all of these practices.
2 = Our school fosters a positive psychosocial school climate by using most of these practices.
1 = Our school fosters a positive psychosocial school climate by using some of these practices.
0 = Our school does not foster a positive psychosocial school climate by using these practices.

School Meals

6.  All foods sold during the school day meet the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

Do all competitive foods sold to students during the school day meet or exceed the USDA’s nutrition standards for all foods sold to students (commonly called Smart Snacks in School)? This includes a la carte, vending, school stores, snack or food carts, and any food based fundraising (school follows fundraising exemptions and guidance set by their State agency, which also must adhere to the federal Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards). See below.

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<td>ingredient; or</td>
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✓ Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food (e.g., beans, eggs, poultry, meat, nuts, seeds etc.); or
✓ Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable

Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:

- **Calorie limits:**
  - Snack items: ≤ 200 calories
  - Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories
- **Sodium limits:**
  - Snack items: ≤ 200 mg
  - Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg
- **Fat limits:**
  - Total fat: ≤35% of calories
  - Saturated fat: < 10% of calories
  - Trans fat: zero grams
- **Sugar limit:**
  - ≤ 35% of weight from total sugars in foods

3 = Yes, all competitive foods sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, or we do not sell competitive foods at our school.
2 = Most competitive foods sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
1 = Some competitive foods sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
0 = No, no competitive foods sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

7. All beverages sold during the school day meet the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

Do all competitive beverages sold to students during the school day meet or exceed the USDA’s nutrition standards for all beverages sold to students (commonly called Smart Snacks in School)? This includes a la carte, vending, school stores, snack or food carts, and any food based fundraising (school follows fundraising exemptions and guidance set by their State agency, which also must adhere to the federal Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards). See below.

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<td>• 100% fruit or vegetable juice</td>
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<td>• 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners</td>
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*There is no portion size limit for plain water.*

*Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions of milk and juice.*

3 = Yes, all competitive beverages sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, or we do not sell competitive beverages at our school.
2 = Most competitive beverages sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
1 = Some competitive beverages sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
0 = No, no competitive beverages sold meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

8. Breakfast and lunch programs
Does your school offer school meals (breakfast and lunch) programs that are fully accessible to all students?

3 = Yes.
2 = Our school offers breakfast and lunch programs, but they are not fully accessible to all students.
1 = Our school offers only a lunch program that is fully accessible, but there are plans to add a breakfast program.
0 = Our school offers only a lunch program that is not fully accessible and there are no plans to add a breakfast program, or the school does not offer a breakfast or a lunch program.

9. School breakfast

Does your school use strategies to maximize participation in the school breakfast program?

3 = Our school offers universal free breakfast* after the bell, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab and go to the classroom, or second chance breakfast models.
2 = Our school offers breakfast after the bell, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab and go to the classroom, or second chance breakfast models.
1 = Our school offers a traditional breakfast program served and consumed in the cafeteria.
0 = Our school does not offer a breakfast program.

*Generally, universal free breakfast is ideal for schools with ≥70% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but may still be feasible for schools with a lower percentage of eligible students depending on state and local policies and programs. Universal free breakfast refers to any program that offers breakfast to all students free of charge, regardless of their free, reduced or paid lunch status.

10. Variety of offerings in school meals

Do school meals include a variety of offerings that meet the following criteria?

Lunch
✓ Go beyond the National School Lunch Program requirements to offer one additional serving per week from any of the 3 vegetable subgroups (dark green, red and orange, dry beans and peas)
✓ Offer a different fruit every day of the week during lunch (100% fruit juice can be counted as a fruit only once per week)
✓ Offer fresh fruit at least 1 day per week
✓ Offer foods that address the cultural practices of the student population
✓ Offer an alternative entrée option at least one time per week that is legume-based, reduced-fat dairy or fish-based (including tuna)
✓ Offer at least 3 different types of whole grain-rich food items each week

Breakfast
✓ Offer at least 3 different fruits and vegetables each week (100% fruit juice can be counted as a fruit only once per week)
✓ Offer fresh fruit at least 1 day per week

NOTE: A school meal is a set of foods that meets school meal program regulations. This does not include à la carte offerings.

3 = Yes, meets six to eight of these criteria for variety.
2 = Meets three to five of these criteria for variety.
1 = Meets one to two of these criteria for variety.
0 = Meets none of these criteria for variety.

11. Promote healthy food and beverage choices and school meals using Smarter Lunchroom techniques

✓ Are healthy food and beverage choices promoted through the following techniques?
A variety of mixed whole fruits are displayed in nice bowls or baskets (instead of stainless steel pans)

Fruit is offered in at least two locations on all service lines, one of which is right before each point of sale (POS)

Vegetables are offered on all serving lines
At least one vegetable is identified as the featured vegetable-of-the-day and is labeled with a creative, descriptive name at the point of selection
Place pre-packed salads or salad bar is available in a high traffic area
Label pre-packaged salads or salad bar choices with creative, descriptive names and display next to each choice
Self-serve salad bar tongs, scoops, and containers are larger for vegetables and smaller for croutons, dressing, and other non-produce items.

White milk is displayed in front of other beverages in all coolers
1% or non-fat white milk is identified as the featured milk and is labeled with a creative, descriptive name
Cafeteria staff politely prompt students who do not have a full reimbursable meal to select a fruit or vegetable
Signs show students how to make a reimbursable meal on any service line
Alternative entrée options (salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas
Cafeteria staff smile and greet students upon entering the service line and continually throughout meal service
Students, teachers, or administrators announce today’s menu in daily announcements
A monthly menu is posted in the main office
Information about the benefits of school meals is provided to teachers and administration at least annually
Brand, name, and decorate the lunchroom in a way that reflects the student body.

Conduct a taste test of a new entrée at least once a year

3 = Yes, healthy food and beverage choices are promoted through ten or more of these techniques.
2 = Healthy food and beverage choices are promoted through five to nine of these techniques.
1 = Healthy food and beverage choices are promoted through one to four of these techniques.
0 = Healthy food and beverage choices are promoted through none of these techniques.

12. Adequate time to eat school meals

Do students have at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they are seated?

3 = Yes. (NOTE: If the school does not have a breakfast program, but does provide at least 20 minutes for lunch, you can select 3.)
2 = Have adequate time for breakfast or lunch, but not for both.
1 = No, but there are plans to increase the time.
0 = No.

NOTE: The time that students are allotted for breakfast and/or lunch should be uninterrupted (i.e., designated to eating and not to completing make-up work or other academic assignments).

13. Annual continuing education and training requirements for school nutrition services staff

Do all school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA’s Professional Standards requirements?

Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, food safety and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), nutrition standards updates in school meals, food sensitivities and allergies, purchasing and procurement, meal counting and claiming, customer service or food production techniques.

NOTE: USDA’s Professional Standards requirements establish minimum professional standards for school nutrition personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. (See https://professionalstandards.fns.usda.gov/content/professional-standards-information)
3 = Yes, **all** food and nutrition services staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA’s Professional Standards requirements.

2 = **Most** food and nutrition services staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA’s Professional Standards requirements.

1 = **Some** food and nutrition services staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA’s Professional Standards requirements.

0 = No, **no** food and nutrition services staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA’s Professional Standards requirements.

### Other School Food

**14. Prohibit using food as reward or punishment**

Does your school prohibit giving students food as a reward and withholding food as **punishment**? Is this prohibition consistently followed?

3 = Yes, using food as a reward and withholding food as punishment are prohibited, and both prohibitions are consistently followed.

2 = One of these practices is prohibited, and this prohibition is consistently followed.

1 = One or both of these practices is prohibited, but this prohibition is not consistently followed.

0 = Neither practice is prohibited.

**15. Access to free drinking water**

Does your school make safe, unflavored, drinking water available throughout the school day at no cost to students?

3 = Yes, students can access water fountains or water filling stations throughout the school day, **and** they are allowed to bring filled containers to class.

2 = Students can access water fountains or water filling stations throughout the school day, but they are **not** allowed to bring filled containers to class.

1 = Students have **limited** access to water fountains or water filling stations throughout the school day.

0 = No, students do **not** have access to free, safe, unflavored, drinking water.

**16. All foods and beverages served and offered during the school day meet the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards**

Do all foods and beverages **served and offered** to students during the school day meet or exceed the USDA’s **Smart Snacks in School** nutrition standards? This includes snacks that are not part of a federally reimbursed child nutrition program, birthday parties, holiday parties and school-wide celebrations.

### Smart Snacks in School – Nutrition Standards for Foods

**Any food sold in schools must:**

- Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight or have whole grains as the first ingredient; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food (e.g., beans, eggs, poultry, meat, nuts, seeds etc.); or
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable

**Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:**

- **Calorie limits:**
  - Snack items: ≤ 200 calories
  - Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories
- **Sodium limits:**
  - Snack items: ≤ 200 mg
entrée items: ≤ 480 mg

- Fat limits:
  - Total fat: ≤35% of calories
  - Saturated fat: < 10% of calories
  - Trans fat: zero grams

- Sugar limit:
  - ≤ 35% of weight from total sugars in foods

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### Smart Snacks in School – Nutrition Standards for Beverages

**All schools may sell:**
- Plain water (with or without carbonation)
- Unflavored low fat milk
- Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP
- 100% fruit or vegetable juice
- 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners

*There is no portion size limit for plain water. Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions of milk and juice.*

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3= Yes, **all** foods and beverages served and offered meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, or **we do not serve or offer additional foods or beverages at our school.**

2= **Most** foods and beverages served and offered meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

1= **Some** foods and beverages served and offered meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

0= No, **no** foods and beverages served and offered meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

17. **Fundraising efforts during and outside school hours meet the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards**

Do fundraising efforts during and **outside school hours** sell only non-food items or only foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA’s **Smart Snacks in School** nutrition standards? This may include, but is not limited to, donation nights; cookie dough, candy and pizza sales; and market days.

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### Smart Snacks in School – Nutrition Standards for Foods

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- Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight or have whole grains as the first ingredient; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food (e.g., beans, eggs, poultry, meat, nuts, seeds etc.); or
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable

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*There is no portion size limit for plain water.*

*Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions of milk and juice.*

3 = Yes, **all** fundraising efforts sell only non-food items, or **all** foods and beverages sold as fundraisers meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
2 = **Most** fundraising efforts sell only non-food items, or **most** foods and beverages sold as fundraisers meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
1 = **Some** fundraising efforts sell only non-food items, or **some** foods and beverages sold as fundraisers meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
0 = No, **no** fundraising efforts sell only non-food items, or **no** foods and beverages sold as fundraisers meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

18. **Food and beverage marketing**

Does your school limit food and beverage marketing (e.g., contests or coupons) on **school campus** to foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA’s **Smart Snacks in School** nutrition standards?

This may include, but is not limited to, marketing and branding in cafeterias, hallways, common spaces, classrooms, staff lounges or school stores; and on snack or food carts, vending machine exteriors, display racks, food or beverage cups or containers, coolers, athletic equipment and sports bags. Examples may include, but are not limited to, in-school media, signs, posters and stickers.

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_There is no portion size limit for plain water._

_Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions of milk and juice._

---

3 = Yes, **only** foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards are advertised or promoted, or no foods and beverages are advertised or promoted on school campus.

2 = **Most** foods and beverages advertised or promoted on school campus meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

1 = **Some** foods and beverages advertised or promoted on school campus meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

0 = No, **no** foods and beverages advertised or promoted on school campus meet or exceed the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

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19. **Venues outside the cafeteria offer fruits and vegetables**

Do **venues outside the cafeteria** (e.g., vending machines, school stores, canteens, snack bars, or snack or food carts) where food is available offer fruits and non-fried vegetables?

3 = Yes, **most or all** venues outside the cafeteria do.

2 = **About half** of the venues do.

1 = **Fewer than half** of the venues do.

0 = None of the venues do.

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20. **Farm to School activities**

Is your school implementing any Farm to School activities?

- Local and/or regional products are incorporated into the school meal programs
- Messages about agriculture and nutrition are reinforced throughout the learning environment
- School hosts a school fruit or vegetable garden
- School hosts field trips to local farms
- School utilizes promotions or special events, such as tastings, that highlight the local/regional products
- School hosts a farmer’s market (student and parent involvement)
- Menu states local product(s) being served
- Local farmers/producers participate in career day activities

3 = Yes, our school is implementing **four to five** of these activities.

2 = Our school is implementing **two to three** of these activities.

1 = Our school is implementing **one** of these activities.

0 = No, our school is **not implementing any** of these activities.
21. Required health education course

Does your school or district require all students to take and pass at least one health education course?

NOTE: If your school has more than four grade levels (e.g., grades 7-12), answer this question instead: “Does the school require all students to take and pass at least two health education courses?” and for answer response 2 below replace “one course” with “two courses.”

3 = Yes.
2 = Students are required to take one course, but they do not have to take it again if they fail it (see note above).
1 = No, but there is an elective health education course.
0 = No.

22. Sequential health education curriculum consistent with standards

Do all teachers of health education use age-appropriate health education curriculum materials that are sequential and consistent with state or national standards for health education (see standards box) and the district’s requirements for health education?

NOTE: Consider using CDC’s Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT), which is designed to help school districts and schools conduct a clear, complete, and consistent analysis of written health education curriculum. HECAT results can help districts and schools enhance, develop, or select appropriate and effective health education curricula. The HECAT assesses how consistent curricula are with national standards and can assist users in determining if the curriculum being analyzed is sequential.

3 = Yes.
2 = Some teachers use a sequential health education curriculum, and it is consistent with state or national standards and district requirements.
1 = Some teachers use a sequential health education curriculum, but it is not consistent with state or national standards or district requirements.
0 = None do, or the curriculum is not sequential, or there is no health education curriculum.

<table>
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<td>✓ Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


23. Culturally-appropriate activities and examples
Do all teachers of health education use a variety of culturally-appropriate activities and examples that reflect the diversity among students and within the community?

3 = Yes, all do.
2 = Most do.
1 = Some do.
0 = None do, or no one teaches health education.

24. Credentialed health education teachers

Are all health education classes taught by credentialed health education teachers?

3 = Yes, all are.
2 = Most classes are.
1 = Some classes are.
0 = No classes are, or there are no health education courses.

25. Professional development in health education

Do all teachers of health education participate at least once a year in professional development in health education?

3 = Yes, all do.
2 = Most do.
1 = Some do.
0 = None do, or no one teaches health education.

26. Essential topics on physical activity

Does your health education curriculum address all of these topics on physical activity?

✓ 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 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

NOTE: Consider using CDC’s Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT), which is designed to help school districts and schools conduct a clear, complete, and consistent analysis of written health education curriculum. HECAT results can help districts and schools enhance, develop, or select appropriate and effective...
health education curricula. The HECAT assesses how consistent curricula are with national standards and can assist users in determining if the curriculum being analyzed is sequential.

3 = Yes, addresses all of these topics.
2 = Addresses most of these topics.
1 = Addresses some of these topics.
0 = Addresses one or none of these topics, or there is no health education curriculum.

27. **Essential topics on healthy eating**

Does your health education curriculum address all of these essential topics on healthy eating?
- The relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from MyPlate
- Reading and using 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 saturated fat and cholesterol and do not contain transfat
- 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

**NOTE:** Consider using CDC’s *Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool* (HECAT), which is designed to help school districts and schools conduct a clear, complete, and consistent analysis of written health education curriculum. HECAT results can help districts and schools enhance, develop, or select appropriate and effective health education curricula. The HECAT assesses how consistent curricula are with national standards and can assist users in determining if the curriculum being analyzed is sequential.

3 = Yes, addresses all of these topics.
2 = Addresses most of these topics.
1 = Addresses some of these topics.
0 = Addresses one or none of these topics, or there is no health education curriculum.

### Physical Education

28. **225 minutes of physical education per week**

Do all students in each grade receive **physical education** for at least 225 minutes per week throughout the school year?
NOTE: Physical education classes should be spread over at least three days per week, with daily physical education preferable.

3 = Yes.
2 = 135-224 minutes per week for all students in each grade throughout the school year.
1 = 90-134 minutes per week for all students in each grade throughout the school year.
0 = Fewer than 90 minutes per week or not all students receive physical education throughout the school year.

29. Sequential physical education curriculum consistent with standards

Do all teachers of physical education use an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum that is consistent with national or state standards for physical education (see national standards below) and the district’s requirements for physical education?

NOTE: Consider using CDC’s Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT), which is designed to help school districts and schools conduct a clear, complete, and consistent analysis of written physical education curriculum. PECAT results can help districts and schools enhance, develop, or select appropriate and effective physical education curricula for delivering high-quality physical education in schools. The PECAT assesses how consistent curricula are with national standards and can assist users in determining if the curriculum being analyzed is sequential.

3 = Yes.
2 = Some use a sequential physical education curriculum, and it is consistent with state or national standards and the district’s requirements for physical education
1 = Some use a sequential physical education curriculum, but it is not consistent with state or national standards or the district’s requirements for physical education.
0 = None do, or the curriculum is not sequential, or there is no physical education curriculum.

National Standards for Physical Education

A physically literate individual:
1. Demonstrates competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
2. Applies knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
3. Demonstrates the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
4. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others.
5. Recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and/or social interaction.

National Standards & Grade-Level Outcomes for K-12 Physical Education (SHAPE America & Human Kinetics, 2014)

30. Students active at least 50% of class time

Do teachers keep students moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of the time during most or all physical education class sessions?

3 = Yes, during most or all classes.
2 = During about half the classes.
1 = During fewer than half the classes.
0 = During none of the classes, or there are no physical education classes.

31. Health-related physical fitness

Does the physical education program integrate the components of the Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP)?

✓ Fitness assessment using Fitnessgram®
✓ Professional development for physical education teachers on proper use and integration of fitness education, fitness assessment, and recognition.
✓ Recognition of students meeting Healthy Fitness Zones or their physical activity goals.

3 = Yes, all 3 components of the PYFP are integrated.
2 = 2 of the PYFP components are integrated.
1 = 1 of the PYFP components is integrated.
0 = None of the PYFP components are integrated.

32. Licensed physical education teachers

Are all physical education classes taught by licensed teachers who are certified or endorsed to teach physical education?

3 = Yes, all are.
2 = Most classes are.
1 = Some classes are.
0 = No classes are, or there are no physical education classes.

33. Address special health care needs

Does the physical education program consistently use all or most of the following practices as appropriate to include students with special health care needs?

✓ Encouraging active participation; modifying type, intensity, and length of activity if indicated in Individualized Education Plans, chronic health condition action plans, or 504 plans
✓ Offering adapted physical education classes
✓ Making necessary accommodations for students with special health care needs for participation in recess (e.g., game modifications)
✓ Using modified equipment and facilities
✓ Ensuring that students with chronic health conditions are fully participating in physical activity as appropriate and when able
✓ Monitoring signs and symptoms of chronic health conditions
✓ Encouraging students to carry and self-administer their medications (including pre-medicating and/or responding to chronic health condition symptoms) in the gym and on playing fields; assisting students who do not self-carry
✓ Encouraging students to actively engage in self-monitoring (i.e., using a peak flow meter, recognizing triggers) in the gym and on playing fields (if the parent/guardian, health care provider, and school nurse so advise)
✓ Using a second teacher, aide, physical therapist, or occupational therapist to assist students, as needed
✓ Using peer teaching (e.g., teaming students without special health care needs with students who have such needs)

3 = Yes, the physical education program uses all or most of these instructional practices consistently.
2 = The physical education program uses some of these instructional practices consistently.
1 = The physical education program uses some of these instructional practices, but not consistently (that is, not by all teachers or not in all classes that include students with special health care needs).
0 = The program uses none of these practices, or there is no physical education program.
34. Professional development for physical education teachers

Are teachers of physical education required to participate at least once a year in professional development in physical education?

3 = Yes, all do.
2 = Most do.
1 = Some do.
0 = None do, or no one teaches physical education.

35. Prohibit using physical activity as punishment

Does your school prohibit using physical activity and withholding physical education class as punishment? Is this prohibition consistently followed?

NOTE: Please do not consider issues related to participation in interscholastic sports programs when answering this question.

3 = Yes, using physical activity as punishment and withholding physical education class as punishment are prohibited, and both prohibitions are consistently followed.
2 = One of these practices is prohibited, and this prohibition is consistently followed.
1 = One or both of these practices is prohibited, but this prohibition is not consistently followed.
0 = Neither practice is prohibited.

36. Professional development for classroom teachers

Are classroom teachers required to participate at least once a year in professional development on promoting and integrating physical activity in the classroom?

3 = Yes, all do.
2 = Most do.
1 = Some do.
0 = None do, or professional development on physical activity is not available to classroom teachers.

37. Promotion or support of walking and bicycling to and/or from school

Does your school promote or support walking and bicycling to and/or from school in the following ways?

- 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
- Secure storage facilities for bicycles and helmets (e.g., shed, cage, fenced area)
- Instruction on walking/bicycling safety provided to students
- Promotion of safe routes program to students, staff and parents via newsletters, websites, local newspaper
- Crossing guards
- Crosswalks on streets leading to schools
- Walking school buses
- Documentation of number of children walking and or biking to and from school
- Creation and distribution of maps of school environment (sidewalks, crosswalks, roads, pathways, bike racks, etc.)

3 = Yes, our school promotes or supports walking and bicycling to school in six or more of these
ways.
2 = Our school promotes or supports walking and bicycling to school in three to five of these ways.
1 = Our school promotes or supports walking and bicycling to school in one to two of these ways.
0 = Our school does not promote or support walking and bicycling to school.

38. **Availability of before- and after-school physical activity opportunities**

Does your school offer opportunities for all students to participate in physical activity before and after school, through organized physical activities (such as physical activity clubs, intramural sports, before school physical activity)?

3 = Yes, both before and after school.
2 = We offer before school or after school, but not both.
1 = We do not offer opportunities for students to participate in physical activity before or after school, but there are plans to initiate it.
0 = No, we do not offer opportunities for students to participate in physical activity before or after school, and there are no plans to initiate it.

39. **Availability of physical activity breaks in classrooms**

Are all students provided opportunities to participate in physical activity breaks in classrooms, outside of physical education, recess, and class transition periods?

NOTE: Physical activity breaks (e.g., brain breaks, energizers, classroom activity breaks, etc.) are actual breaks that occur in the academic classroom, allowing students to take a mental and physical break from current academic tasks. These breaks can occur at any time during the school day, last from 5–30 minutes, and occur all at one time or several times during the school day.

3 = Yes, on all days during a typical school week.
2 = On most days during a typical school week.
1 = On some days during a typical school week.
0 = No, we do not provide students with opportunities to participate in physical activity breaks in classrooms.

40. **Physical activity facilities meet safety standards**

Does the school ensure that spaces and facilities for physical activity meet or exceed recommended safety standards for design, installation, and maintenance, in the following ways?

- Regular inspection and repair of indoor and outdoor playing surfaces, including those on playgrounds and sports fields
- Regular inspection and repair of physical activity equipment such as balls, jump ropes, nets, cardiovascular machines, weights, and weight lifting machines
- Padded goal posts and gym walls
- Breakaway bases for baseball and softball
- Securely anchored portable soccer goals that are stored in a locked facility when not in use
- Bleachers that minimize the risk for falls
- Slip-resistant surfaces near swimming pool use
- Pools designed, constructed, and retrofitted to eliminate entrapment use

NOTE: Please disregard any standard that is not relevant for your campus.

3 = Yes, all these safety standards are met.
2 = All these safety standards are met, but at times the school has temporary lapses in one of them.
1 = One of these safety standards is not met, or at times the school has temporary lapses in more than one of them.
0 = More than one of these safety standards is not met, or there are no spaces or facilities for physical activity.
Staff Involvement

41. Collaboration between school nutrition services staff members and teachers

Do school nutrition services staff members use three or more of the following methods to collaborate with teachers to reinforce nutrition education lessons taught in the classroom?

- Participate in design and implementation of nutrition education programs
- Display educational and informational materials that reinforce classroom lessons
- Provide food for use in classroom nutrition education lessons
- Provide ideas for classroom nutrition education lessons
- Teach lessons or give presentations to students
- Tasting party in collaboration with classroom teacher
- Presentation on nutrition and food services to PTA/PTSA/PTO
- Sports nutrition – collaboration with coaches
- Classroom tour of cafeteria or meet and greet with School Nutrition staff

3 = Yes, use three or more methods.
2 = Use two of these methods.
1 = Use one of these methods.
0 = Use none of these methods.

42. Health services provided by a full-time school nurse

Does your school have a full-time, registered school nurse responsible for health services all day, every day? Are an adequate number of full-time school nurses provided, based on the recommendation of at least one nurse per school?

NOTE: More nurses are recommended if students have extensive nursing needs.

3 = Yes, we have a registered school nurse present all day every day
2 = We have a registered school nurse present most of the time each week.
1 = We have a registered school nurse present some of the time each week, or we have an LPN or UAP (supervised by a school nurse) who is present at least some of the time each week.
0 = No, we do not have a registered school nurse, LPN, or UAP present in our school, or we have an unsupervised LPN or UAP in our school.

43. School nurse collaborates with other school staff members

Does the school nurse or other health services provider collaborate with other school staff members to promote student health and safety in at least six of the following ways?

- Developing plans to address student health problems (e.g., individual health care plans, individual education plans, 504 plans, school team plans)
- Providing professional development
- Developing health-related policy
- Consulting with teachers/health educators to identify, revise or develop health-related curricula or units/lessons
- Developing and implementing school-wide and classroom activities
- Developing School Improvement Plans
- Establishing communication systems with other school staff

3 = Yes, there is collaboration in at least six of these ways.
2 = There is collaboration in three to five of these ways.
1 = There is collaboration in one or two of these ways.
0 = No, there is no collaboration, or the school does not have a school nurse or other health services provider.
44. Counseling, psychological, and social services provided by a full-time counselor, social worker, and psychologist

Does your school have access to a **full-time** counselor, social worker, or psychologist for providing **counseling, psychological, and social services**? Is an adequate number of these staff members provided based on the following recommended ratios?

- ✔ One counselor for every 250 students
- ✔ One social worker for every 400 students
- ✔ One psychologist for every 1,000 students

3 = Yes, we have a full-time counselor, social worker, and psychologist, and the recommended ratios are present.
2 = We have a full-time counselor, social worker, and psychologist, but fewer than the recommended ratios.
1 = We have a full-time counselor, social worker or psychologist, but not all three.
0 = No, we do not have even one full-time counselor, social work or psychologist.

45. School counselor collaborates with other school staff members

Does the **counseling, psychological, or social services** provider collaborate with other school **staff members** to promote student health and safety in at least six of the following ways?

- ✔ Developing plans to address student health problems (e.g., individual health care plans, individual education plans, 504 plans, school team plans)
- ✔ Providing **professional development** on managing student health and safety concerns, a component of which educates staff on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the principles of a trauma-informed school
- ✔ Developing policy
- ✔ Identifying, revising or developing curricula or units/lessons
- ✔ Developing and implementing school-wide and classroom activities
- ✔ Developing School Improvement Plans
- ✔ Establishing communication systems with other school staff

3 = Yes, there is collaboration in at least six of these ways.
2 = There is collaboration in three to five of these ways.
1 = There is collaboration in one or two of these ways.
0 = No, there is no collaboration, or the school does not have a counseling, psychological, or social services provider.

46. Programs for staff members on physical activity/fitness

Does the school or district **offer staff members** accessible and free or low-cost **physical activity/fitness programs**?

3 = Yes.
2 = Offers physical activity/fitness programs, but some staff members find them inaccessible or expensive.
1 = Offers physical activity/fitness programs, but many staff members find them inaccessible or expensive.
0 = Does not offer physical activity/fitness programs.

47. Programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management

Does the school or district **offer staff members** healthy eating/weight management programs that are accessible and free or low-cost?

3 = Yes.
2 = Offers healthy eating/weight management programs, but some staff members find them inaccessible or expensive.
1 = Offers healthy eating/weight management programs, but many staff members find them inaccessible or expensive.
0 = Does not offer healthy eating/weight management programs.
48. All foods served and sold to staff meet the USDA’s Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

Do food and beverages served and sold at staff meetings, school-sponsored staff events, and in the staff lounge meet USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smart Snacks in School – Nutrition Standards for Foods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any food sold in schools must:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight or have whole grains as the first ingredient; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Calorie limits:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Snack items: ≤ 200 calories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sodium limits:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Snack items: ≤ 200 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fat limits:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Total fat: ≤35% of calories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Saturated fat: &lt; 10% of calories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Trans fat: zero grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sugar limit:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ≤ 35% of weight from total sugars in foods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smart Snacks in School – Nutrition Standards for Beverages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All schools may sell:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plain water (with or without carbonation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unflavored low fat milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 100% fruit or vegetable juice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is no portion size limit for plain water.*
*Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions of milk and juice.*

3 = Yes, all foods and beverages served and sold meet Smart Snacks.
2 = Most foods and beverages served and sold meet Smart Snacks.
1 = Some foods and beverages served and sold meet Smart Snacks.
0 = No, no foods and beverages meet Smart Snacks.

49. Modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors

Does your school support staff to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors?

- ✔ Provide staff with information about the importance of modeling healthy eating behaviors
- ✔ Provide staff with information about the importance of engaging in physical activities with students
- ✔ Encourage staff not to bring in or consume unhealthy foods and beverages in front of students, in classrooms, or areas common to both staff and students
- ✔ Provide staff with examples of healthy foods and beverages to bring in or consume during the regular or extended school day
- ✔ Provide staff with information or strategies on how to incorporate physical activity into classrooms
- ✔ Encourage staff to use non-food items, activities, and opportunities for physical activity to recognize students for their achievements or good behavior
3 = Yes, our school uses **5 or more** of the strategies to support staff to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.
2 = Yes, our school uses **3 to 4** of the strategies to support staff to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.
1 = Yes, our school uses **1-2** of the strategies to support staff to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.
0 = No, our school does not use any strategies to support staff to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

**Family and Community Involvement**

50. **Communication with families**

Does your school communicate with all families about school health activities and programs in a **culturally- and linguistically-appropriate** way, using a variety of **communication methods**?

3 = Yes, **all** families are communicated with in a culturally- and linguistically-appropriate way using a variety of communication methods.
2 = **All** families are communicated with using a variety of communication methods, **but** not in a culturally- and linguistically-appropriate way.
1 = Our school only uses very **few** methods to communicate about health-related activities or programs.
0 = Our school does **not** communicate with families in these ways, or families receive communications solely about academic subjects **but** not about health-related activities or programs.

51. **Family engagement in school decision making**

Do families have opportunities to be involved in **school decision making** for health and safety policies and programs?

3 = Yes, families have opportunities to be involved in **all** school decision-making processes for health and safety policies and programs.
2 = Families have opportunities to be involved in **most** school decision-making processes for health and safety policies and programs.
1 = Families have opportunities to be involved in **some** school decision-making processes for health and safety policies and programs.
0 = No, families do **not** have opportunities to be involved in school decision-making processes for health and safety policies and programs.

52. **Family volunteers**

Does your school or district have a formal process to recruit, train, and involve family members as **volunteers** to support school health and safety programs?

3 = Yes, our school or district has a formal process to recruit, train, and involve family members to support school health and safety programs.
2 = Our school or district has an informal process to recruit, train and involve family members to support school health and safety programs.
1 = Our school or district does **not** recruit or train family members **but** involves family members, when needed, to support school health and safety programs.
0 = No, our school or district does **not** recruit, train, or involve family members to support school health and safety programs.
53. **Professional development on family engagement strategies**

Have all school staff received **professional development** on **strategies for family engagement** in school health in the past two years?

3 = Yes, **all** school staff have received professional development on strategies for family engagement.
2 = **Most** school staff have received professional development on strategies for family engagement.
1 = **Some** school staff have received professional development on strategies for family engagement.
0 = No school staff have received professional development on strategies for family engagement.

54. **Student and family involvement in the school meal programs and other foods and beverages sold, served and offered on school campus.**

Do students and family members have opportunities to provide both suggestions for **school meals** and other foods and beverages sold, served and offered on **school campus** and feedback on the meal programs and other foods and beverages sold, served and offered on **school campus**?

3 = Yes, **both** students and family members have opportunities to provide suggestions and feedback.
2 = Yes, **both** students and family members have opportunities to provide **either** suggestions for school meals or feedback on the meal program.
1 = **Either** students or family members have opportunities, but not both.
0 = **Neither** students nor family members have these opportunities.

55. **Community involvement in school decision making**

Do community members (e.g., community groups, organizations) have opportunities to help with **school decision making** on health and safety policies and programs? (NOTE: Community members include individuals other than school board members)

3 = Yes, community members are actively engaged in **most** school decision-making on health and safety policies and programs.
2 = Community members are actively engaged in **some** school decision-making on health and safety policies and programs.
1 = Community members are offered opportunities to provide input on a few school decisions on health and safety policies and programs, but not consistently.
0 = No, community members are **not** engaged in school decision-making processes on health and safety policies and programs.

56. **Community volunteers**

Does your school or district have a formal process to recruit, train, and involve community members as **volunteers** to enrich school health and safety programs?

3 = Yes, our school or district has a formal process to recruit, train, and involve community members.
2 = Our school or district has an informal process to get community members involved.
1 = Our school or district does **not** recruit or train, but involves community members when needed.
0 = No, our school or district does **not** recruit, train, or involve community members.

57. **Community involvement in school health initiatives**

Does your school partner with local community organizations, businesses, or local hospitals to engage students and their families in health promotion activities?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes, our school partners with local community organizations, businesses, or local hospitals to promote and engage students and their families in health promotion activities, for all school health initiatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Our school partners with local community organizations, businesses, or local hospitals to promote and engage students and their families in health promotion activities, for most school health initiatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Our school partners with local community organizations, businesses, or local hospitals to promote and engage students and their families in health promotion activities, for some school health initiatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No, our school does not partner with local community organizations, businesses, or local hospitals to promote and engage students and their families in health promotion activities for school health initiatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>