

# **Griffin Technology Academies**

## *Board Policy*

### **STUDENTS**

The School Board of Griffin Technology Academies recognizes the important connection between a healthy diet, physical activity, and the ability of students to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school. The Board desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for all district students and staff, as well as a safe and healthy school environment. The Board also recognizes the school's important role as part of the larger community, to support family health, environmental awareness, and sustainable agriculture and business practices.

To this end, it is the goal of the Griffin Technology Academies Board to promote through its educational and operational efforts, the primary messages of the 2015-2020 US Dietary Guidelines for Americans as illustrated in the USDA MyPyramid education framework: Activity, Variety, Moderation, Proportionality, Personalization, and Gradual Improvement. To further the environmental efforts of Solano County, the Board will encourage whenever possible, practices which support environmental awareness and sustainability.

### **Griffin Technology Academies Wellness Council**

The GTA School Wellness Council, a sub-committee of the VOORP Committee, shall meet at least once per year, and shall be charged with making wellness policy recommendations to the Board and advising the district on school health and environment related issues, activities, policies and programs. The Director shall appoint the Wellness Council, consisting of parents/guardians, students, school food service professionals, school administrators, board representatives, school nurses, physical education teachers, and/or others interested in school health issues.

### **Goals for Nutrition Education, Physical Activity and Education, and Other School Based Activities**

The Board shall adopt goals for nutrition education, physical activity and education, and other school based activities that are designed to promote student wellness consistent with the district's educational mission.

The district shall promote a comprehensive nutrition education and physical education program that is sequential and generally consistent with the expectations established in the state's curriculum frameworks.

The goal of the programs shall be to build the skills and knowledge that all students need to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity.

## **STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY**

### **Nutrition Education**

Nutrition education shall be provided in middle and high school. It is recommended that all grades:

- ❖ Integrate current, scientifically accurate nutrition content based on the 2015-2020 US Dietary Guidelines into classroom instruction in such core subjects as science, mathematics, English language arts, and history-social science, as per the Shaping Health as Partners in education (SHAPE) California program.
- ❖ Topics that promote understanding of the relationship between the human body, nutrition, physical activity, and disease prevention, and acceptance of individual differences in growth and development are encouraged.
- ❖ Opportunities to analyze the influence of culture, media, technology and other factors on decisions related to nutrition, physical activity and lifestyle choices are encouraged.
- ❖ Activities that build goal setting and decision-making skills that promote self-management related to diet, physical activity and safe food handling are encouraged.
- ❖ Encourage instructional strategies that incorporate experiential learning opportunities (such as taste testing, cooking demonstrations, tours of farmers markets and school gardens) and that engage family members in reinforcing healthy nutrition behaviors.
- ❖ Reinforce messages on healthy eating by coordinating child nutrition programs/school food service with classroom-based nutrition and health education.
- ❖ Provide instructional staff with adequate and ongoing in-service nutrition education training that focuses on teaching strategies that assess health knowledge and skills and promote healthy behaviors.

### **Physical Activity and Education**

All students in Middle School and High School shall be provided opportunities to be physically active on a regular basis, including students with disabilities and students with special health-care needs. Opportunities for moderate to vigorous physical activity shall be provided through physical education, recess, school athletic programs, extracurricular programs and other structured and unstructured activities. All students will receive physical education instruction that meets state requirements.

The school district should assess and, if necessary, improve student's ability to safely walk and bike to school. When appropriate, the school collaborate with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments to achieve safe routes for walking and biking to school.

### **Other School Based Activities**

The Director shall encourage all MIT staff to strive to serve as positive role models through promoting healthy food options and opportunities for regular physical activity. Professional development shall include education and skill development that promotes health knowledge, healthy behaviors, physical education strategies and environmental awareness.

To encourage consistent health messages between the home and school environment, the Director may disseminate health information to parents/guardians through district or school newsletters, handouts, parent/guardian meetings, the district or school website, and other communications. Outreach to parents/guardians shall emphasize the relationship between student health and academic performance.

The Board prohibits the marketing and advertising of non-nutritious foods and beverages through signage, vending machine fronts, logos, scoreboards, school supplies, advertisements in school publications, or other means.

### **Nutrition Guidelines for Foods Available at School**

The Board shall adopt nutrition guidelines selected by the district for all foods available on each campus during the school day, with the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

The Board believes that foods and beverages available to students at district schools should support the health curriculum and promote optimal health. Nutrition standards adopted by the district for all foods and beverages sold to students, including foods and beverages provided through the district's food service program, student stores, vending machines, fundraisers, or other venues, shall meet or exceed state and federal nutrition standards.

The Director shall encourage school organizations to use healthy food items or non-food items for fundraising purposes. He/she also shall encourage school staff to avoid the use of non-nutritious foods as a reward for students' academic performance, accomplishments, or classroom behavior.

School staff shall encourage parents/guardians or other volunteers to support the district's nutrition education program by limiting unhealthy foods served at class parties and considering nutritional quality when selecting any snacks which they may donate for occasional class parties and birthday celebrations. Class parties or celebrations shall be held no sooner than half an hour after school has ended.

### **Guidelines for Reimbursable Meals**

Foods and beverages provided through federally reimbursable school meal programs shall meet or exceed state and federal regulations and guidance issued pursuant to 42 USC 1758(f)(1), 1766(a), and 1779(a) and (b) as they apply to schools.

In order to maximize the district's ability to provide nutritious meals and snacks, all district schools shall participate in available federal school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, to the extent possible.

#### *Free and Reduced Price Meals*

The District shall utilize all available resources to strengthen its outreach to students and their families, to ensure that all eligible Griffin Technology Academies students are enrolled in the free/reduced meal program. Outreach and participation plans will incorporate strategies to prevent overt identification of low income students or otherwise treat them differently because of their income status.

Qualified child nutrition professionals shall provide students with access to a variety of affordable, fresh, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students. Organic and locally grown produce shall be provided when available and

economically and operationally feasible. Student preferences shall be solicited in the planning of menus and snacks, and religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body shall be incorporated in meal planning.

Griffin Technology Academies shall provide all students and staff with a clean, safe, and pleasant eating environment with sufficient time for eating meals.

### **Program Implementation and Evaluation**

The Director shall designate at least one person within MIT who is charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school sites implement the school's wellness policy.

The Wellness Council shall repeat the School Health Index baseline nutrition and physical activity assessment at least once per year to determine compliance and progress toward implementation of the adopted school wellness policy.

The Wellness Council shall also recommend specific quality indicators that will be used to measure the implementation of the wellness policy district-wide and at each district school. These measures shall include, but are not be limited to:

- An analysis of the nutritional content of meals served;
- Student participation rates in school meal programs;
- Feedback from food service personnel, the school health council, students, parents/guardians, school administrators, and other appropriate persons;
- An evaluation of marketing efforts and sales of non-nutritious foods and beverages in fundraisers or other venues outside the district's meal programs utilizing standardized assessment tools
- Data collected on student wellness and achievement from:
  - annual Fitnessgram scores including Body Mass Index (BMI) scores for students in grades 5, 7, 9
  - California Healthy Kids Survey data (exercise and eating practices, BMI)
  - Average Daily Attendance (ADA)
  - California Assessment of School Performance & Proficiency (CAASPP) scores

The Director shall report to the Board at least once per year on the implementation of this policy and any other Board policies related to nutrition and physical activity and education, and set new priorities when needed.

Each school shall post the district's policies and regulations on nutrition and physical activity in public view within all school cafeterias or in other central eating areas.

All stakeholders are welcome to participate , contribute, or make suggestions to the Wellness Policy. Please contact a school official to find out more.

*Board Approved: May 8, 2018*