

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Bethalto, IL



Local Wellness Policy

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Zion Lutheran School Wellness Policy

Preface

In accordance with 7 CFR 210.31(c), a Local Education Agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must establish a Local School Wellness Policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. As of June 30, 2017, Local Wellness Policies must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Local Wellness Policies are a valuable tool in the promotion of student health and wellness through the NSLP and SBP. Schools play an essential role in preparing students for successful futures, and proper nutrition and physical activity are key to creating constructive learning environments. Local Wellness Policies provide guidance to further support schools efforts to provide students with a successful and healthy future. *Updated 3/18/22*

Preamble

Zion Lutheran School (hereto referred to as Zion) is committed to the optimal development of every student. Zion 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 including better grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks. ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7} Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students. ^{8,9,10} 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. ^{11,12,13,14} Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance.

This policy outlines Zion'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 at Zion have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available on 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;
- Zion School engages 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 Zion in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- Zion 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 and staff at Zion Lutheran School.

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

Zion will convene a representative wellness committee (hereto referred to as the ZWC or work within an existing school health committee) that meets at least two 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 the Zion wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The ZWC membership will represent all school levels (early childhood and elementary) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program; physical education teachers; health education teachers; lunch program administrators; school administrators; and the general public. To the extent possible, the ZWC will include representatives that reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Principal or designee(s) will convene the ZWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure that the school is in compliance with the policy.

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of these individual(s) is:

Name	Title	Email Address
Renee Hardwick	School Nutrition Director	rhardwick@zionbethalto.org
Sarah Koch	Principal	skoch@zionbethalto.org
Kim Griffith	Physical Education Teacher	kgriffith@zionbethalto.org
Debbie Combes	School Board Member	dcombes4752@icloud.com

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

Implementation Plan

Zion 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 specific to the school, 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 of 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.zlsbethalto.org

Recordkeeping

The school office will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. 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 ZWC 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 the school; and
- Documentation of the triennial assessment* of the policy for the school under;
- 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 school community; and (2) Efforts to actively notify families about the availability of wellness policy.

Annual Progress Reports

Zion will compile and publish an annual report to share basic information about the wellness policy and report on the progress of the school in meeting wellness goals. This annual report will be published around the same time each year in April. 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 the 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 Zion Wellness Committee identified in Section 1; and
- Information on how individuals and the public can get involved with the ZWC.

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

The ZWC will establish and monitor goals and objectives for the school, specific and appropriate for each instructional unit (Early Childhood and Elementary) for each of the content-specific components listed in Sections III-V of this policy.

Triennial Progress Assessments

Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, assessments of the Local Wellness Policy must occur no less than every three years. Zion Lutheran School shall conduct assessments of the Local Wellness Policy every three years beginning in 2022 and occurring every three years thereafter. These assessments will:

- Ensure the wellness policy is in compliance with USDA, State and Local rules and regulations.
- Compare Zion's wellness policy to model wellness policies provided by ISBE.
- Measure the progress made in achieving the goals as outlined in Zion's wellness policy. *Updated 3/18/22*

The person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Renee Hardwick, School Nutrition Director. She may be reached at (618) 377-5507 or by email at rhardwick@zionbethalto.org.

The ZWC will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

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

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The ZWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual progress reports and triennial assessments, and/or as 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

Zion Lutheran School is committed to being responsive to the school community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. Zion will actively communicate ways in which representatives of ZWC and others can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for the

school. Zion 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. Zion will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the school'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. Zion will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community and accomplished through the same means other important school information is communicated with parents.

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

III. Nutrition

Zion recognizes the important role nutrition plays in academic performance as well as overall quality of life. The National Education Association references numerous articles supporting the effects of nutrition on the classroom, for example, hunger often has a negative impact on students' success, attendance, and behavior.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 18.5 percent of the nation's youth was considered obese in 2015-16. This percentage increased 1.3 percent when compared to the previous year. Conversely, 15.7 percent of American families experienced food hardship in 2017. Through participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition Programs, the LEA commits to serving nutritious meals to students in order to prevent both overconsumption of nutrient-poor foods and food insecurity to give students the best chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom. [Updated 3/18/22](#)

School Meals

All reimbursable meals served for the purposes of the National School Lunch Program (NLSP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards and regulations. This includes meeting standards for each of the meal pattern components (ie. Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates, Fruit, Vegetables, and Milk) as well as meeting or exceeding the limitations set for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and trans fat. [Updated 3/18/22](#)

Our school 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.

Our lunch/breakfast program meals comply with the USDA nutritional standards

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Students have at least 20 minutes to eat lunch after obtaining their food. *Updated 3/18/22*
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations.
- Zion offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices through the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#)
 - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily
 - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names
 - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetables with their meal
 - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers
 - Alternative entrée options (e.g. yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas
 - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas
- Menus will be posted on the school website.
- Menus are created/reviewed by Zion's Nutrition Manager and Lunch Staff.
- School meals are administered by a certified child nutrition professional.
- The child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in our school. Applications for free/reduced priced meals are sent out to all families at the beginning of the school year. Zion will reach out to the family of a child with an unpaid balance to assess whether the child is eligible for free or reduced price meals. Zion will serve a student a reimbursable meal, regardless of whether the student has money to pay or owes money.

Updated 3/18/22

Zion Lutheran School protects the privacy of students who qualify for free or reduced price meals. The cafeteria is cashless - all students, regardless of the type of payment they make for school meals, or the food being purchased are included on the classes' lunch printout in the same manner as other students. There is nothing referencing how the student paid or did not pay for their school meal. *Updated 3/18/22*

Staff Qualification 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 campus and day. ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). Zion 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 on a discretionary basis.

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, and other methods for delivering drinking water.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

Zion is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus* during the school day* support healthy eating. All competitive foods and beverages sold must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards (7 CFR 210.31(c)(3)(iii)). Competitive foods and beverages refer to those that are sold to students outside the reimbursable meal on the school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day). This includes, but is not limited to, vending machines and à la carte items.

Students are encouraged to bring a nutritional snack that comply with the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. These snacks are enjoyed during the morning break of the school day. It is our goal 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.

Other Foods and Beverages

The following policy refers to all foods and beverages provided, but not sold to students. Zion will prohibit food and beverage items that do not meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards for reward and celebration purposes. More than 25 percent of children's daily calories may come from snacks, therefore, providing Smart Snacks allows for a more nutrient-dense calorie intake. *Updated 3/18/22*

Only healthy snacks will be served to students in after school care programs. *Updated 3/18/22*

Celebration and Rewards

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

1. Celebration and parties. Zion 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](#). (See Appendix A)
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. Zion will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards (list available upon request); and
3. Rewards and incentives. Zion will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). (See Appendix B) Staff will be encouraged to not use foods and beverages as a reward, or withhold food and beverages as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

Fundraising

All fundraisers promoting food and/or beverage items that are held on school campus (i.e. locations on the school campus that are accessible to students) during the school day (i.e. the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day) must meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards. The school shall also utilize non-food fundraisers to promote healthy habits and well-being. The school will implement the following non-food fundraising ideas: (See Appendix C for healthy fundraising ideas) *Updated 3/18/22*

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 cafeteria. 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.

Zion shall make cafeteria menus available through the school newsletter and on our website www.zlsbethalto.org.

Zion 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 our school may use are available at www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks.

Farm to School efforts positively impact School Nutrition Programs by serving fresh and nutritious food items. Additionally, Farm to School programs have been linked to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Zion shall participate in the following Farm to School activities:

- Dairy Council Adopt a Cow
- 2 Bite Club which incorporates the USDA Food Chart and healthy foods and drinks
- Planting a variety of seeds
- Field trip to the apple orchard
- Field trip to the pumpkin patch
- Plant module in the spring in which we plant, transplant seedlings, and monitor growth of our plants over the course of 1.5 months
- Participate in C.A.R.E.E., the 4th grade comprehensive "Land of Illinois" program. Topics include Illinois agriculture, crops, livestock and technology. The purpose of AITC is to inform students and teachers about how agriculture is a part of their daily lives. Students will better understand the role of agriculture by incorporating information about the food and fiber systems into daily classroom activities.

- School meals will include fresh, locally grown foods in school meals from farms engaged in sustainable practices whenever possible and these foods will be promoted in the cafeteria. *Updated 3/18/22*

Food loss and waste continue to be an issue facing the nation's food supply. In order to prevent food waste, Zion will make every effort to produce the precise number of meals needed on any given day by using production records and resources such as the USDA's Food Buying Guide. However, in the event excess food remains, Zion will continue to provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided through the USDA School Nutrition Programs. Therefore, Zion shall follow the established food sharing plan, in accordance with Public Act 102-0359, and federal and local regulations and sanitation codes:

Food Sharing Plan

- Use production records and resources such as the USDA's Food Buying Guide to help reduce leftover food.
- Reduce fruit and vegetable waste by serving sliced fruit and offering raw vegetables.
- Allow students plenty of time to eat.
- If a whole fruit is offered and the student does not have time to eat it, allow the student to take it with them to enjoy later as a snack.
- Provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided through the USDA School Nutrition Program.
- Use leftovers in subsequent meal services.
- When it is not feasible to reuse leftovers, excess food may be donated to a non-profit organization, such as a community food bank, homeless shelter, or other nonprofit charitable organization.
- All federal and local regulations and sanitation codes will be followed when handling any leftover food. *Updated 3/18/22*

Nutrition Education

Zion aims to teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Nutrition topics shall be integrated within the comprehensive health education curriculum and taught at every grade level (K-8). *Updated 3/18/22*

Zion 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 is also encouraged to be integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;

- Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Help children acquire skills for reading food labels and menu planning;
- Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

Zion will include in the health education curriculums 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

Zion 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. We strive 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 school property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the school is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of Zion 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 Zion'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.

Food advertising and marketing is defined¹⁵ as an oral, written, or graphic statement made for the purpose or 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 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 Zion.
- 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. Zion is committed to providing these opportunities. Our school will ensure that these varied opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection).

We encourage all staff to not withhold physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, physical activity breaks, or physical education) as punishment for any reason. This does not include participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements.

To the extent practicable, Zion will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. Our Buildings and Grounds Committee in conjunction with the Physical Education Instructors and the Administration will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Through a formal joint or shared use agreement indoor and outdoor physical activity facilities will be open to students, their families, and the community outside of school hours. [Change Lab Solutions](#) provides guidance regarding joint or shared use agreements.

Our school will work with the Board of Education and the Parent Teacher League to ensure that inventories of physical activity supplies are known and, when necessary, will work to ensure sufficient quantities of equipment are available to encourage activity for as many students as possible.

Physical Education

Zion will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with SHAPE America's National Standards & Grade-Level Outcomes and Illinois 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. Our school will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All **elementary students** will receive physical education for at least 45-89 minutes per week throughout the school year.

Zion’s physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [FitnessGram](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student. *Updated 4/21/22*

- Students will be moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of class time during most or all physical education class sessions.
- All physical education teachers will be required to participate in at least once a year professional development in education.
- All physical education classes are taught by licensed teachers.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Zion will include in the health education curriculum the following essential 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 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

Recess (*Elementary*)

All elementary schools will offer at least **20 minutes of recess** on all or most days during the school year (*This policy may be waived on early dismissal or late arrival days*). If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built into the recess transition period/time frame before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Extracurricular activities are available to students throughout the school year. Students in grades 5th thru 8th can participate in track, volleyball, basketball and cross country. Students in 3rd thru 8th grade can participate in a Running Club. [Updated 3/18/22](#)

Physical Activity Breaks (*Elementary*)

Research confirms that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Zion strives to provide students with **periodic opportunities** to be active or stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The Administration of the school encourages and 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.

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

Active Academics

Teachers are encouraged to 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.

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

V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

Zion will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues, and physical activity facilities. Zion 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.

The teachers, volunteers and staff 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 by contracted 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 ZWC.

The Board of Education and Administration encourages that all school-sponsored events adhere to the wellness policy. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity opportunities.

Community Partnerships

Zion will continue relationships with community partners (i.e. hospitals, universities/colleges, the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Bethalto Police Department and other local businesses) 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.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The faculty and staff are encouraged to implement strategies that actively promote and model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. The Administration promotes staff member participation in health programs.

Glossary:

Extended School Day – time during before and after school 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 120 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

Triennial – recurring every three years

¹Bradley, 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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Appendix A: Healthy Party Ideas

Non-Food Celebrations

- Games or crafts – ask parents to bring supplies for a game or craft project
- Let's trade! Ask parents to bring small items to trade, such as pencils, stickers or erasers
- Dance party

- Extra recess or play time
- Special book
- Guest readers
- Activity time
- Overnight stuffed animal or item from class or program
- Special show and tell
- Special time with principal, teacher or site staff – take a walk around the school or playground
- Organize a community project
- Have a themed scavenger hunt around the school or site
- Stock a treasure chest – ask parents to bring items such as pencils, stickers and erasers or other small trinkets to fill the chest
- Themed parade around your school-try a vocabulary or food group theme!
- All the birthday child to be the class or site assistant for the day to help with special tasks, such as making deliveries around the school or site or lead the line.
- Make it an event! Allow the birthday child to wear a special sash and crown or carry a special item.
- For birthday celebrations, allow the birthday child to choose the game, activity, music, item, book, etc.

Healthy Snack and Beverages Ideas

- Water
- 100% fruit juice with no added sugar
- Fat-free or low-fat milk
- Fruit smoothies (made with frozen fruit with no added sugar and fat-free or low-fat yogurt)
- 100% fruit juice slushies with no added sugar
- Fresh fruit – trays, salad or kabobs

- Fresh vegetables – trays, salads or kabobs
- Fat-free or low-fat yogurt (alone or as dip for fruits or vegetables)
- Yogurt parfaits (fat-free or low-fat yogurt, fruit and whole grain cereal or granola as topping)
- Canned fruit or fruit cups (in water, 100% fruit juice or light syrup)
- Frozen fruit or fruit cups (in water, 100% fruit juice or light syrup)
- Frosty fruits – freeze your own fruit (frozen grapes make a great summer treat!)
- Dried fruit with no added sugar
- Nut or seed butter (serve with fruit or whole grain crackers)
- Hummus (serve with vegetables or whole grain crackers)
- Small whole grain waffles or pancakes topped with fruit or nut or seed butter
- Whole grain pretzels (soft or crunchy)
- Low-fat or air-popped popcorn (no added butter or salt)
- Graham crackers
- Nut or seed butter and jelly sandwiches on whole grain bread
- Small whole grain bagels or English muffins with nut or seed butter or jelly
- Pizza (on whole grain crust with low-fat cheese and lean protein or vegetable toppings)
- Roll-ups on whole grain tortillas (fill with a lean protein such as ham or turkey, low-fat cheese, hummus, nut or seed butter and jelly or vegetables)
- Fat-free or low-fat pudding
- Bean quesadillas or burritos made with whole grain tortillas with salsa
- Whole grain cereal bars
- Baked whole grain tortilla chips with salsa or bean dip
- Baked chips (small portions)

Adapted from Alliance for a Healthier Generation; Healthy Celebrations, Lets Celebrate!; viewed on 2.11.22;

http://www.healthiergeneration.org/take_action/schools/snacks_and_beverages/celebrations/

Appendix B: Alternative Ways to Reward Children

- Pencils, Stickers or Erasers
- Drawings or raffles for a prize
- Tokens/points toward a prize
- Special physical activity breaks
- Choice of special activity
- Students have the opportunity to lead an activity
- Extra free time, extra recess or P.E. time
- Special book selected by student
- A feat by a teacher or principal
- Special dress day (like PJs)
- Special visitor
- Choice of music for study time
- Certificates or ribbons
- Post recognition signs (i.e. student of the month) around the school
- Special section in the announcements
- Call or letter to a parent
- Photo board
- Going first for something
- “No Homework” pass
- Designing a prominent bulletin board
- Special event (i.e. dance or kite-flying party)

*Adapted from Alliance for a Healthier Generation; Non-Food Rewards; viewed on 2.11.22;
https://www.healthiergeneration.org/asset/tljc7f/12-5933_NonFoodRewards.pdf*

Appendix C: Healthy Fundraising Ideas

Events that promote physical activity and celebrate fitness

- As-THON-ishing results: School groups raise thousands of dollars when students get pledges for miles biked, distance walked, time jumped, or time skated. Bike-a-thons, Trike-a-thons, Walk-a-thons, Jog-a-thons, Skate-a-thons, and Dance-a-thons, as well as 1K or 5K races, are a few examples.
- Hidden talents = fundraising treasures: Talent shows are a fun and healthy way to raise money. Children can sing, dance, juggle, perform magic tricks, do gymnastics, and get ready for an appearance on American Idol!
- Friendly competitions: Tickets sales for games can really boost the bottom line. Example = basketball games between a middle school team – and a team of teachers, police or fire department members, or local college players.
- Sport-o-rama: A bowling alley, miniature golf course, or club (tennis, swim, or fitness) can help sponsor/organize a tournament or family fun night.
- Rent-a-teen programs: Young people can set up a “job bank” to rake leaves, water gardens, mow lawns, walk dogs, wash windows, or do other services.

Other events that involve communities in supporting schools

- Carnivals or game nights
- Spelling bees for kids and adults
- Book fairs and read-a-thons
- Giant yard and/or craft sales
- Auctions of products and services
- Raffles for products and services

Non-food items to sell

- Car washes and dog washes
- Recycling (cans to ink cartridges)
- Singing telegrams
- Holiday gift-wrapping services

- Grocery store rebate programs
- Bake-less bake sales
- School spirit items, especially those that support healthy choices, such as water bottles, Frisbees, and other sports equipment and clothing. Other options include decals, bumper stickers, cups, and stadium pillows//blankets
- Coupon books, Calendars, Magazine subscriptions
- First Aid and car safety kits
- Holiday wreaths, candles, greeting cards, and wrapping paper
- Newsletter and yearbook space or advertisements
- School supplies (notebooks, pencils, pens and crayons)
- Arts and crafts made by students and/or school staff

[Best Practices for Healthy School Fundraisers | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#) viewed on 2-11-22

Appendix D: Ideas for Physical Activity Breaks

1. **Chair Aerobics:** Have students pull their chairs out from their desk. They should sit up straight, keeping their ankles together to do leg lifts by extending their legs to a 180-degree angle for 20 repetitions. Then have students stand behind the chair and while holding the back for balance, extend their right leg out to the side to a 45-degree angle for 20 repetitions. Then repeat with the left leg.
2. **Taskmaster:** Have students stand up and push in their chairs. Explain that you are going to give them a series of tasks and the goal is to complete them as quickly as possible. Direct students that once they have completed the task, they should stop where they are and raise their hand. For the first task, have students touch 10 chairs not in a row. For the next task, have students touch elbows with 8 classmates. For the last task, touch toes with 6 classmates wearing 6 different colored shirts.
3. **Boogie Days:** Have students spread out across the room and play one school-appropriate song and let kids bust-a-move. Have them follow your moves and make sure movements are appropriate. Try doing some vintage moves like the Twist, mash potatoes or just jumping around.
4. **No Stress Test:** Make it a classroom tradition to have a 5-minute walking break before a test to help everyone unwind and relax.

5. **Take a Tour:** Lead students on an imaginary tour of a different country or state in a charades-like game. For example, take a tour of Texas; march to the Alamo, climb an oak tree, climb Guadalupe Peak, swim in the Gulf of Mexico. Create other simulations that point out various landmarks within any state.
6. **Play Cards:** Using a standard card deck, assign an activity to each of the four suits (ex: jumping in place, running in place, sit-ups, squats). Pass out a card to each student and they have to do the activity for that suit for 20 seconds. Have students pass their cards to their neighbor and repeat for 5 passes. Add a twist: have students perform the activity the number of times designated on the card.
7. **Mix it Up:** Create a dance sequence one move at a time by calling out a move. Add one move each time through the sequence. Moves could include: stomp left, high five, jump twice, spin in a circle, squat, etc.
8. **Acting Out:** Read a paragraph or page of a book, and every time an action verb comes up, students have to act it out.
9. **Look Ma, No hands!** Have students put an object on the floor (pen, notebook, ID card) and call out different body parts they have to try to pick it up with (ex: elbows, feet, knees, forearm, neck, etc.)
10. **Keep it Clean:** Push some chairs to the side and draw an imaginary line down the middle of the room. Give students several soft objects to throw (wadded up paper from the recycle bin works well). Students begin throwing objects across the line—the object is to keep objects off of your side of the room. When you call “time” the cleanest side (the one with the fewest objects) wins. Do best 2 out of 3 for minute sessions.
11. **Calm Down:** Lead students in stretches to help loosen up tension. Have students each hold for 15-20 seconds each: reach for the sky, touch toes, arm circles, neck circles, knee to chest, etc.
12. **Quiz Me:** While reviewing for a test, ask the students a series of true-or-false questions. If the question is true students should jump in place for 15 seconds. If it is false they should touch their toes.
13. **Shake It:** Students remain seated and raise their hands in the air. Have them start by shaking their right hand 10 times, left hand 10 times, left foot 10 times and right foot 10 times. Repeat counting down the number of shakes from 9-1. Speed up or slow down the counting to keep it interesting.
14. **Workout Videos:** Although most workout videos can last from 20-40 minutes, they're often broken down into different moves that only last 2-4 minutes. If you have a TV in your classroom, work through a video over the course of a week doing one move at a time. Libraries often have workout videos for students.

15. **Write your Name:** Using your index finger as an imaginary pencil, write your name in huge cursive in the air. Now repeat using different body parts as your pencil – elbow, knee, toe, belly button, head. Don't forget to make sure all your i's are dotted and t's are crossed!

16. **Mime Yourself:** Have students get into pairs and without talking mirror each other's actions. Specify who will be the leader to start, and tell students that without talking they should switch back and forth as to who has the lead.

17. **Take the Long Way:** Before your next class change, stop class 3 minutes early and take your students the long way to their next room.

18. **Stand Up for Vocabulary:** Create a poem or song using vocabulary words that all start with the same letter. Every time a word starting with that letter is said or sung, have students stand or sit down.

19. **Rainstorm:** Have a rainstorm in your classroom. Have students follow your lead; begin by having students very lightly rubbing their hands together, then lightly snap, slap their thighs, slap their right thighs and stomp their feet (the rainstorm is at its peak!). Then stop stomping their feet, just slap their thighs, return to lightly snapping, rubbing their hands and stop. Do each action for 20 seconds.

20. **Animal Instincts:** Pick one student to call out an animal and have everyone mimic how that animal moves. Go around the room until every student has an opportunity to call out an animal and the class has mimicked that animal.

21. **Train Like a Pro:** Have students emulate various sports for 10-15 seconds each:

- Kick a field goal
- Shoot a jump shot
- Run through tires
- Swing a bat
- Serve a tennis ball
- Downhill skiing
- Spike a volleyball
- Swing a golf club
- Throw a football
- Shoot an arrow

- Shoot a hockey puck
- Swim

22. The Classroom Workout Circuit: Have students do the following in place for 1 minute each (feel free to mix up the order): jog in place, high knees, jumping jacks, hop on one foot, hop on the other foot, hop on both feet.

23. Take a Seat! Have students stand up and pull their chairs away from their desks. They should stand in front of their chair (seat facing out). Have students quickly sit, then stand, sit then stand 8-10 times. Next, quickly repeat sitting halfway down and standing, repeating 8-10 times. Last, have students barely sit (just touching the chair) and stand quickly repeating 8-10 times.

24. Stations: Create 3 stations in different areas of the room designated by a sign depicting a different physical activity (boxing jabs, running in place, jumping on both feet, jumping jacks, sit-ups, etc). Divide students into 3 groups and assign them to a station. Have students perform the activity for one minute and then rotate to the next station. To mix it up, add new types of activities or more stations.

25. Do the Conga! Have students line up, placing their hands on the shoulders of the student in front of them. Start some music and lead students around the classroom.

26. Walk and Talk: Break students into groups of 2 or 3, and assign a topic related to a current lesson plan that students need to discuss while taking a 5-minute walk. They should report their discussion back to the class.

27. Physical Activity Jeopardy: Tape 5-10 envelopes with one physical activity listed inside each envelope on the board in the front of the classroom. Write 10, 15, 20 and 25 on the outside of each envelope. Call on a student to pick one of the envelopes, and the class performs the physical activity inside it for the number of repetitions listed on the front of the envelope. Activities could include: boxing jabs, jumps, push-ups, triceps dips using their chair, arm circles, jumping jacks, elbow to opposite knee touches, etc.

28. Feel the Beat: Have every student get a partner and sit cross legged on the floor facing their partner 2-3 feet away. Place a hacky-sack or other object between them. Turn on some music and have students perform the following actions to the beat of the music:

- tap knees
- tap shoulders
- clap
- tap knees, shoulders, clap
- clap partners hands (both, right-right, left-left)

When the music stops, students try to be the first to grab the hacky-sack. Repeat for 5 times.

29. Stretch It Out: Have students stand with both arms extended out in front. Slowly, alternate using arms to push open an imaginary door. Clasp hands together and extend arms out, bending the elbows slightly, and stretch your neck by lowering your head (as if trying to touch nose to chest).

30. Future Trainer: Have a student lead a 3-5 minute physical activity break doing any activities or games of the class's choosing—be creative and have everyone in the class get involved.

Adapted from Fuel Up to Play 60; In-School Activity Break Ideas; viewed on 2.11.22
<https://school.fueluptoplay60.com/tools/view.php?id=15749467>