

Lawndale Elementary School

Local School Wellness Policy

2014-2015

Rationale:

The link between health of students and learning is well documented. If children are to be successful in school they cannot be tired, hungry, sick, suffering from drug abuse, or worried that school is an unsafe environment in which they could become a victim of a violent act. It has become apparent that problems such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, obesity, bullying, and more – can adversely affect not only a child’s health, but also his or her *ability to learn!* And that is precisely why a coordinated approach to school health can make a difference! A coordinated approach to school health improves kids’ health and their capacity to learn through the support of families, schools, and communities working together. At its very core, a coordinated approach to school health is about keeping students healthy over time, reinforcing positive healthy behaviors throughout the school day, and making it clear that *good health and learning go hand in hand.*

Goal:

All students in Lawndale Elementary School shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff are encouraged to model healthful eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

To meet this goal, Lawndale Elementary School adopts this school wellness policy with the following commitments to implementing a coordinated approach to school health. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in culture.

Commitment to Nutrition

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer school breakfast programs with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2001).
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4011), www.healthyschoolsms.org/MSHealthyStudentsAct.htm.

- Healthy food and beverage choices;
- Healthy food preparation;
- Marketing of healthy food choices to students and staff;
- Food preparation ingredients and products;
- Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;
- Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.
- Establish guidelines in accordance with the Mississippi Beverage and Snack Regulations for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.
- Encourage students to make food choices based on the Healthy Hunger-Free Act of 2010 (HHFKA) and the Choose My Plate resources, by emphasizing menu options that feature baked (rather than fried foods), whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables, and reduced-fat dairy products.
- Establish a cafeteria environment conducive to a positive dining experience, with socializing among students and between students and adults; with supervision of eating areas by adults who model proper conduct and voice level.
- Replace deep fat fryers with combination oven steamers.
- Make school meals accessible to all students with a variety of delivery strategies, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go lunches, or alternate eating sites.

Commitment to Food Safe Schools

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school site.
- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with Fight Bac® (www.fightbac.org) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in school.
- Ensure that all staff has viewed the video developed by the Office of Healthy Schools to support food safety on the campus. For compliance with the Nutrition Standards all staff must complete and sign the pre and post test developed by the Office of Healthy School and maintain documentation of completion.
- All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, foodservice staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy to include food safety policies and procedures and relevant professional development.
- Adequate access to hand-washing facilities and supplies will be available where students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Commitment to Physical Activity/Physical Education

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, Mississippi Code of 1972, ann., reference 2012 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 32, Appendix B and 33).

- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.
- Instruction must be based on the 2013-2014 Mississippi Physical Education Framework.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007 (Senate Bill 2369).
- Incorporate 5- to 10-minute physical activity sessions in classrooms to teach subject areas and to make transitions between different lessons.
- Establish or enhance physical activity opportunities (like walking clubs or fitness challenges) for staff and/or parents.
- Encourage active transportation to/from schools by assessing the safest routes for students to walk or bike to school, and by installing bike racks at school buildings.
- Collaborate with local recreational departments and youth fitness programs to promote participation in lifelong physical activities.
- Create opportunities for students to voluntarily participate in before- and after-school physical activity programs like intramurals, clubs, and at the secondary level, interscholastic athletics.

Commitment to Comprehensive Health Education

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades K-8.
- Emphasize the disease and prevention strand in the 2012 Mississippi Contemporary Health Education Curriculum.
- Provide Universal Precautions training and Universal Precautions Kits for all teachers, superintendents and staff.
- Conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve students, staff and community resources such as Milk Day sponsored by the Mississippi Dairy Farmers.

Commitment to a Healthy School Environment

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Ensure that there are no pad locks or chains on exit doors; exits should never be obstructed (in accordance with Mississippi State Fire Code). Ensure that all exit signs are illuminated and clearly visible.
- Ensure that all chemicals are stored properly (in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheet www.msdssearch.com).
- Refer to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for Public Playground Safety (www.cpsc.com); for federal guidelines for playground safety.
- Ensure that fire extinguishers are inspected each year and properly tagged.
- Complete yearly maintenance of the heating and cooling system in your school; check coils, filters, belts, etc. in order to maintain safe operation and healthy air quality.
- Conduct at least one emergency evacuation drill per month.

- Have an anti-bullying policy that outlines procedures for dealing with bullying situations in the school.
- Ensure that two means of egress are available in each classroom in case of an emergency; if there is only one door, designate a window (properly sized) as a means of egress.

Provide facilities that meet the criteria of: (MS Code 37-7-301 (c) (d) (j); 37-11-5, 49 and 45-11-101; and Accreditation Standard #36).

- Provide facilities that are clean.
- Provide facilities that are safe.
- Provide proper signage that explains tobacco, weapons, and drugs are prohibited on the school campus and at school functions.
- Provide operational facilities that are equipped and functional to meet the instructional needs of students and staff (in accordance with the Mississippi School Design Guidelines at www.edi.msstate.edu).
- Provide air conditioning in all classrooms, Code §37-17-6(2) (2000).

Comply with the requirements for Safe and Healthy Schools:

- Maintain a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board. (MS Code 37-3-81 and 37-3-82(2); and Accreditation Standard #37.1); see the School Safety Manual and the MDE School Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Plan at: http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/healthy_school_environment/school_safety.htm.
- State Board Policy EBB (1990) prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or weapons by any person on school premises or at school functions. Code §37-11-18 (1996) requires any student who possesses a knife, a handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commit a violent act on educational property be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year. The superintendent of the school is authorized to modify the period of time for expulsion on a case-by-case basis.
- Prohibits students from possessing tobacco on any educational property, Criminal Code §97-32-9 (2000). Code §97-32-29 (2000) further prohibits the use of tobacco on any educational property for adults who, if in violation, would be subject to a fine and issued a citation by a law enforcement officer. Educational property is defined as any public school building or bus, campus, grounds, athletic field, or other property used or operated during
- Install locks on classroom doors in order to create security from the inside.
- Hire a District Safety Officer or a School Resource Officer.

Commitment to Quality Health Services

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the *Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care*.
- Provide for teachers and other staff, health education regarding asthma action plans as directed in SB2393.
- Every child who has been diagnosed with asthma will be contacted at least 3 times by the nurse to provide an asthma action plan to be filed in the school office.
- Know the district anaphylaxis policy. Providing training by health care professional, preferably a school nurse, for the individuals that will be responsible for implementing the policy at the school site. (MS 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- The school nurse should attend at least one MDE sponsored training each school year.

- The school nurse should submit health services data as requested by the Office of Healthy Schools.
- Work with students, parents, and local healthcare providers to effectively manage and treat chronic diseases.
- Seek support from sources to provide auto-injector epinephrine to stock emergency medication needs.

Commitment to Providing Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and scores a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.
- Abide by Mississippi Code 37-9-79 (Amended 2014) as the school provides for counseling and guidance for students.
- Ensure that all students have access to qualified student support personnel as required by the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, Process Standard 6)
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.
- Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.

Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:

- Academic and personal/social counseling
- Student assessment and assessment counseling
- Educational counseling
- Individual and group counseling
- Crisis intervention and preventive counseling
- Provide all licensed teachers and principals with in service suicide prevention training as directed by the MS Code 37-3-101.
- Referrals to community agencies
- Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders
- Follow-up counseling services
- Conflict resolution
- Other counseling duties or other duties as assigned by the school principal
- Offer quality counseling, psychological and social services provided by professionals such as certified school counselors, psychologists, and social workers.
- Provide additional services to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health.
- Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.
- Hire qualified counselors who will address the mental health, academic, and career needs of students in the school setting.

Commitment to Family and Community Involvement

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Give parents and community the opportunity to serve on the School Health Council (SHC).
- Invite family members to a school meal.
- Recruit, train, and involve families as volunteers by taking advantage of their time, experience, and resources.
- Invite family volunteers to lead physical activities for children, such as lunchtime walkathons, weekend games, after-school programs, cheerleading, karate, aerobics, yoga, etc.
- Increase PTO Membership.
- Plan Healthy Rewards for students.

Commitment to Implementing a Quality Staff Wellness Program

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Promote health and reduce risk factors through professional and staff development programs, providing information flyers and newsletters, introducing incentives for participating in healthy practices and activities, and offering an employee assistance program.
- Encourage after school health and fitness sessions for school staff.
- Develop relationships with community health providers (e.g., local health departments, hospitals, neighborhood clinics, health professionals), recreational facilities, voluntary health organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association), and other community members who can provide resources for or support school employee wellness activities.
- Ensure that all staff is aware of the Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan that has been enhanced to include a new wellness and health promotion program designed to help individuals live a healthy lifestyle and increase their overall wellness benefit amount.

Commitment to Marketing a Healthy School Environment

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Provide positive, motivating messages, both verbal and non-verbal, about healthy lifestyle practices throughout the school setting. All school personnel will help reinforce these positive messages.
- Promote healthful eating, physical activity, and healthy lifestyles to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community at school events (e.g., school registration, parent-teacher conferences, PTA meetings, open houses, health fairs, teacher in-services, and other events).

Commitment to Implementation

Lawndale Elementary School will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to insure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written.
- Establish and support a School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).
- Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas for improvement.

- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary.