

Blackwater Community School Akimel O’Otham Pee Posh Charter School Inc. Local School Wellness Policy

Background: The wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 and further strengthened by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). It requires each LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to develop a wellness policy. The final rule expands the requirements to strengthen policies and increase transparency. The responsibility for developing, implementing, and evaluating a wellness policy is placed at the local level, so the unique needs of each school under the LEA’s jurisdiction can be addressed.

Purpose: Blackwater Community School/Akimel O’Otham Pee Posh Charter School Inc. (hereinafter “BWCS”) strive to make a significant contribution to the general well-being, mental and physical capacity, and learning ability of each student while affording them the opportunity to fully participate in the educational process.

The BWCS is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Healthy eating is demonstrably linked to reduced risk for mortality and development of many chronic diseases as adults.

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Board shall promote and monitor student wellness in a manner that the Board determines is appropriate in the following areas:

- *Nutrition Guidelines:* All foods available at the school during the day will have as a primary goal the promotion of student health and the reduction of childhood obesity. All guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.
- *Nutrition Education:* The goal is to influence students' eating behaviors by providing nutrition education that is appropriate for students' ages; reflects students' cultures; is integrated into health education or core curricula; and provides opportunities for students to practice skills and have fun. BWCS will work closely with Tribal Genesis Program coordinator to further enhance the Nutrition education of all students.
- *Physical Activity:* The goals for physical activity are to provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills for specific physical activities, to maintain students' physical fitness, to ensure students' regular participation in physical activity, and to teach students the short- and long-term benefits of a physically active and healthful lifestyle.
- *Other School-Based Activities:* The goal is to create a total school environment that is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity.
- *Evaluation/Implementation:* A primary goal will be to regularly (annually) evaluate the effectiveness of this policy in promoting healthy eating and changing the program as appropriate to increase its effectiveness. Such evaluation will be measurable. The

results of each evaluation, including the extent to which school is in compliance with BWCS policy, the extent to which the BWCS policy complies with federal regulations, and a description/summary of the progress made in attaining the goals of the School, shall be made available to the public. Physical education teachers and school health professionals shall have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation and implementation of this policy.

- *Parent, Community and Staff Involvement:* A primary goal will be to engage family members, students, and representatives of the school food authority, the Governing Board, school administrators, and the public in development and regular review of this school policy.
- The Principal is directed to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy, including such provisions as may be necessary to address all food and beverages sold and/or served to students at school (i.e., competitive foods, snacks and beverages sold from vending machines, school stores, after-school programs, and funding-raising activities and refreshments that are made available at school parties, celebrations and meetings), including provisions for staff development, family and community involvement and program evaluation. Regulations and exhibits created for the purpose of implementing this policy shall be considered, in effect, to be an extension of this policy subject to Governing Board review.

Revised and approved by BWCS School Board of Trustees on September 26, 2016