A Model Nutrition Policy for School Districts in Georgia

The (insert county/city) School Board is committed to creating a healthy environment for students that will provide healthy and nutritious meals at school. We recognize that consuming healthy meals is related to student success and is essential for establishing lifelong healthy habits. Thus, all schools are required to establish a local school wellness policy to include specific nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activity goals to promote student wellness. All schools that participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School and/or Breakfast Program will provide meals that meet or exceed current federal and state nutrition requirements. In addition, all meals will: (a) be accessible, attractive, appealing to all children, (b) be served in a pleasant and clean setting, and (c) be served to allow all students adequate time to consume meals. Each school’s nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed minimum job requirements and have continuous annual education/training requirements. The requirements are the USDA’s professional standards for child nutrition professionals. All schools will promote healthy food and beverage choices throughout the school campus for all students and encourage school meal program participation. This promotion will at least: (a) implement 10 evidence-based healthy food promotion strategies using Smarter Lunchroom techniques through the school meal program, and (b) ensure all foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

USDA National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Program requirements
All schools participating in the National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) and/or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must meet federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The schools must offer fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grain-rich foods, and low-fat or fat-free milk. In addition, these meals set specific age-appropriate calorie, sodium, saturated fats and trans-fats limits.

Local School Wellness Policy requirements – Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010
- Each school that participates in the National School Breakfast and/or Lunch Program (NSBP/NSLP) is required to have a Local School Wellness Policy to ensure school meal nutrition guidelines meet the minimum federal school meal standards.
- A revised local school wellness policy must fully comply with requirements. This includes, but not limited to: (a) involving parents, students, school food authority representatives, physical education teachers, school board, school administrators, school health professionals, and general public in development and implementation of the local wellness policy, (b) identifying the lead education agency (LEA) and/or school officials leaders to ensure policy compliance, (c) disseminating information to the public about the local wellness policy, (d) providing specific nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activity goals to promote student wellness, and (e) providing standards for all foods and beverages provided to students.
- Smarter Lunchroom tools and strategies for the Local School Wellness Policy ensures a healthy school nutrition environment for all students. This nutrition environment makes healthy foods the most convenient foods. Smarter Lunchrooms can be included into the Nutrition section of the Local School Wellness Policy.
Procedures for Implementation
The administration will develop a plan for communicating the policy that will include information in student and employee handbooks, and announcements at school-sponsored or school-related events. Other methods will be identified for notifying students, employees and parents/guardians about this policy. An enforcement plan, which identifies nutrition expectations for students, staff and parents/guardians, will be created and communicated to all students, staff and parents/guardians.