

Connecticut State Department of Education

School Wellness Policy Report

Background

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265) required that schools participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) child nutrition programs (National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After-School Snack Program and Special Milk Program) establish a school wellness policy by the 2006-2007 school year. These policies were intended to promote school practices to support student health and learning. (For additional information, see *Requirements for School Wellness Policy* at http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Nutrition/NSLP/School_Wellness.pdf.) During the 2007-2008 school year, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) conducted a review of district school wellness policies using a school wellness policy assessment tool developed in partnership with the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University.

Overview

The district scores contained in the *School Wellness Policy Report* address both the comprehensiveness and strength of each policy area. The *comprehensiveness* score refers to the proportion of items within each policy area that are simply mentioned by the district's school wellness policy. The *strength* score refers to the proportion of items within each policy area that are addressed with specific and directive language. District scores are based on the *actual content* of the school wellness policy that each district submitted to CSDE. The report does not address *implementation* of the district's school wellness policy. Information on the scoring methodology is provided in the *Coding Tool for Connecticut School Wellness Policies*, available at http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Student/NutritionEd/SWP/SW_CodingTool.pdf.

The report was sent to district superintendents, board of education chairpersons and school food service directors in June 2008. District reports include the following three documents:

- *School Wellness Policy Report* – an overall summary of the district's scores, state averages and District Reference Group (DRG) averages for each of the seven school wellness policy categories: Nutrition Education; School Meals; Other School Food and Beverages; Physical Education; Physical Activity; Communication and Promotion; and Evaluation.
- *School Wellness Policy Rating Sheet* – the actual district coding for the 96 policy items which determine the scores for each of the seven policy categories.
- *School Wellness Policy Report Comments Section* (if applicable) – a review of the district's policy language for consistency with all applicable federal and state requirements, including suggestions for revising language that is noncompliant with federal or state regulations or statutes.

Reports for all Connecticut school districts participating in the USDA child nutrition programs are available at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322168>. Each online report includes the one-page summary (*School Wellness Policy Report*) followed by the district's scores for each policy item (*School Wellness Policy Rating Sheet*).



For additional information, visit <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320754#SW> or http://www.yaleruddcenter.org/what/communities/topic_school_wellness.html or contact Susan Fiore, Nutrition Education Coordinator, CSDE, at susan.fiore@ct.gov or (860) 807-2075 or Marlene Schwartz, Deputy Director, Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, at marlene.schwartz@yale.edu or (203) 432-0662.

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is an equal opportunity/affirmative action entity. For more information, please call the Affirmative Action Administrator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (860) 713-6530.