

Commissioner's Update

August 11, 2008

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have one item for you in this update.

School Wellness Policy Report Released

The State Department of Education recently conducted a review of the comprehensiveness and strength of district school wellness policies using an assessment tool developed in partnership with the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University. The *School Wellness Policy Report* was sent to school district superintendents, board of education chairpersons and school food service directors in late June. The report includes three components:

1. *School Wellness Policy Report* – an overall summary of the district's scores, state averages and District Reference Group (DRG) averages for seven school wellness policy categories: nutrition education, school meals, other school food and beverages, physical education, physical activity, communication and promotion, and evaluation.
2. *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.
3. *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 noncompliant language.

For district reports and additional information on school wellness policies, please visit <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320754#SW>.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education