



MATER ACADEMY

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM

Wellness Policies 2015-2016

Physical Activity and Nutrition

Committee Members:

The following committee members are involved in the development of this Policy and its implementation throughout the school year.

- Parents:** *Ivette Blazquez, Frank Castillo, and Brossett*
- Students:** *Leonardo Castillo, Isabella Delgado, and Michael Rodriguez*
- School food service:** *Rosa Peramo, Rita Del Puppo, and Vivian Fernandez*
- The school board:** *Robert Blanch*
- School administrators:** *Beatriz Riera, Alex Tamargo, Francisco Jimenez, Cecilia Telleria, Lourdes Marrero, Beatriz Morris, Judith Marty, Marisol Gomez, Ileana Milan, Sheila Gonzalez, Brenda Cruz, Eddie Gorriz, and Eileen Hernandez*
- Physical Education:** *Diego Gracia-Plaza, Gregory Daughton, and Juan Urbina*
- Health education:** *Diego Gracia-Plaza, and Victor Martinez,*
- Local physicians, dentists, and other health professionals:** *Dr. Jose Rodriguez*

Setting Nutrition Education Goals

Nutrition. Academic performance and quality of life issues are affected by the choice and availability of good foods in our schools. Healthy foods support student physical growth, brain development, resistance to disease, emotional stability and ability to learn.

(a) Nutrition guidelines that require the use of products that are high in fiber, low in added fats, sugar and sodium, and served in appropriate portion sizes consistent with USDA standards shall be established for all foods offered by the school's Nutrition Services Department or contracted vendors. Menu and product selection shall utilize student, parent, staff and community advisory groups whenever possible.

(b) Nutrition services policies and guidelines for reimbursable meals shall not be less restrictive than federal and state regulations require.

Health Education and Life Skills. Healthy living skills shall be taught as part of the regular instructional program and provides the opportunity for all students to understand and practice concepts and skills related to health promotion and disease prevention.

(a) Each school shall provide for an interdisciplinary, sequential skill-based health education program based upon state standards and benchmarks.

(b) Students shall have access to valid and useful health information and health promotion products and services.

(c) Students shall have the opportunity to practice behaviors that enhance health and/or reduce health risks during the school day and as part of before or after school programs.

(d) Students shall be taught communication, goal setting and decision making skills that enhance personal, family and community health.

Nutrition Education:

- a) School: Schools will put up Posters throughout the school to promote good eating habits and healthy food options. Other information will be available through the school website, flyers and/or school newsletter.
- b) Staff: School staff will attend in-services and/or nutrition trainings.
- c) Parent: The school will support parents' effort to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The school will send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school website or through school flyers. School should encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks. Such support will also include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through the website, newsletter, take-home materials or physical education homework.

Setting Physical Activity Goals

A. Elementary K-5 grade

1. Participation in such physical activity shall be required for all students in kindergarten through grade five for a minimum of thirty minutes, three days a week, or the equivalent.
2. Participation in a daily 5 minute morning stretch exercise routine for all students in the kindergarten through grade five.
3. Participation in several physical activity programs throughout the school year for all students in kindergarten through grade five. Programs Activities include:
 - Jump Rope For Heart
 - Rumba
 - Field Day
 - Fitness Gram
 - Walk to School Program - October
 - Red Ribbon / Drug Free activity
 - DARE Program
 - Walk-a-thon
 - Cheerleading/Dance Program
 - After-School Aerobics Classes
 - School Sports Program
 - Commit to Fit Program
 - Miami Run

B. Middle School 6-8th grade will participate and complete 80% of the activities provided below before the end of the school year.

1. Such instruction may be provided for grades 6-8 through formal physical education courses, integration into other courses, regularly scheduled intramural activities, and/or regularly scheduled school-wide activities.
2. Participation in several physical activity programs throughout the school year for all students in grade six through grade eight. Programs Activities include:

- Jump Rope For Heart
- Zumba
- Field Day
- Fitness Gramm
- School Sports Program
- Walk-A-Thon
- Red Ribbon / Drug Free activity
- Miami Run

C. High School 9-12 grade will participate and complete 80% of the activities provided below before the end of the school year.

1. High schools shall require one (1) credit for graduation, to include one semester of Personal Fitness (.5 credit) and one semester of an approved Physical Education course (.5 credit).

2. Participation in several physical activity programs throughout the school year for all students in grade nine through grade twelve. Programs Activities include:

- Jump Rope For Heart
- Zumba
- Field Day
- Fitness Gramm
- School Sports Program
- Walk-A-Thon
- After-school Weight Training
- Red Ribbon / Drug Free activity

Establishing Nutrition Standards for All Foods Available on School Campus during the School Day

Nutrition services policies and guidelines for reimbursable meals shall not be less restrictive than federal and state regulations require.

School Meals: Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program will:

- a) Be appealing and attractive to children
- b) Be served in clean and pleasant setting
- c) Meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations.
- d) Serve only low-fat (1%) white, chocolate, or strawberry milk.

Breakfast: All schools will provide a free nutritional breakfast, to ensure that all children have breakfast.

Vending Machines.

1. All snack vending machines shall add a healthier option.
2. Vending machines where student meals are served or eaten shall include a healthier option, such as 100% fruit juice and water.
3. All beverage vending machines in secondary school public areas and all faculty/staff areas at school and school sites shall include:
 - water
 - 100% fruit juice
 - non-carbonated drinks with less than 150 calories per container
 - no more than 1/3rd of the choices will be carbonated drinks

Setting Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

Staff Wellness. The school and each work site shall provide information about wellness resources and services and establish a staff committee to assist in identifying and supporting the health, safety and well being of site staff.

(a) Each school site shall be in compliance with drug, alcohol and tobacco free policies.

(b) Each school site shall provide an accessible and productive work environment free from physical dangers or emotional threat that is as safe as possible and consistent with applicable occupation and health laws, policies and rules.

(c) Employees shall be encouraged to engage in daily physical activity during the workday as part of work breaks and/or lunch periods, before or after work hours in site sponsored programs or as part of discounted membership in local fitness facilities.

Setting Goals for Measurement and Evaluation

The designee will ensure compliance with established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies and will report on the schools compliance to the school principal.

School food service staff, at the school, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within the school food service areas and will report on this matter to the school principal. In accordance with the Department of Education, Food and Nutrition Dept., an SMI review will be done once every five years and will report all findings and resulting changes to the school.

To help with the initial development of the school's wellness policies, the school will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies, and revise the policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation every three years.

All records and activity log will be collected for each physical and nutritional activity and stored at the school site in order to ensure that all activities are documented and complied with, using the current wellness policy.

Designated Person/s

The designated person/s assigned to oversee the implementation of the Wellness Policy at each school will be the administrator mentioned below:

Mater Academy: Cecilia Telleria
Mater East Elementary: Suzzette Perez
Mater East Middle/High: Betty Riera
Mater Academy of International Studies: Ileana Melian
Mater International Academy: Ileana Melian
Mater Beach Academy: Marisol Gomez
Mater Middle/High/Performing Arts: Judith Marty
Mater Gardens Elementary & Middle: Lourdes Isla-Marrero
Mater Lakes Middle & High: Francisco Jimenez
Mater Grove Academy: Sheila Gonzalez
Mater Academy Mount Sinai: Eileen Hernandez
iMater Elementary: Brenda Cruz
iMater Middle/High: Eddie Gorriz
SLAM: Alex Tamargo

All activity reports will be submitted to Rosa Peramo - Mater Academy, Inc. Lunch Program Director, two weeks before last pre-scheduled board meetings. She will present it at the scheduled board meetings for its effectiveness and/or any necessary recommendation the board may have to revise the plan.

Date of adoption: November 9th, 2015

Board's Signature:

Robert Blanch
Name

Signature