



**DIOCESE OF SCRANTON: WELLNESS POLICY**  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE DEPARTMENT**  
**ADOPTED: JANUARY 28, 2025**

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The mission for Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton is to form students spiritually, intellectually, morally, and socially in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. This mission ensures every school environment is safe where students can thrive physically and mentally, feel loved and secure, respect and care for others as children of God, develop a joy for learning, and grow in celebrating their successes.</p> <p>The schools in the Diocese of Scranton recognize that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students’ physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.</p>
<p>2. Authority          SC 1422.1          42 U.S.C.          Sec. 1758b          7 CFR          Sec. 210.31</p>	<p>The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office adopts this policy based on the recommendations of the Diocesan Health/Wellness Committee and in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.</p> <p>To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Diocesan Health/Wellness Committee establishes that the Diocese shall provide to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.</li> <li>• Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutrition guidelines.</li> <li>• Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day.</li> <li>• Curriculum and programs for grades K-12 that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in</li> </ul>

<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility          42 U.S.C.          Sec. 1758b          7 CFR          Sec. 210.31</p>	<p>accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy to ensure each of the Diocesan schools, programs and curriculum is compliant with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.</p> <p>Each building principal or designee shall annually report to the Superintendent or designee regarding compliance in his/her school.</p> <p>Staff members responsible for programs related to school wellness shall report to the Superintendent or designee regarding the status of such programs.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Health/Wellness Committee on the Diocese's compliance with law and policies related to school wellness. The report may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of school environment regarding school wellness issues.</li> <li>• Listing of activities and programs conducted to promote nutrition and physical activity.</li> <li>• Recommendations for policy and/or program revisions.</li> <li>• Suggestions for improvement in specific areas.</li> <li>• Feedback received from diocesan staff, students, parents/guardians, community members and the Health/Wellness Committee.</li> </ul> <p>The Superintendent or designee and the established Health/Wellness Committee shall conduct an assessment at least once every three (3) years on the contents and implementation of this policy as part of a continuous improvement process to strengthen the policy and ensure implementation. This triennial assessment shall be made available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner and include:</p>
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<p>42 U.S.C.          Sec. 1758b          7 CFR          Sec. 210.31</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The extent to which each Diocesan school is in compliance with law and policies related to school wellness.</li> <li>2. The extent to which this policy compares to model wellness policies.</li> <li>3. A description of the progress made by the Diocese in attaining the goals of this policy.</li> </ol> <p>At least once every three (3) years, the Diocese shall update or modify this policy as needed, based on the results of the most recent triennial assessment and/or as Diocesan and community needs and priorities change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information and technologies emerge; and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued.</p> <p>The schools in the Diocese of Scranton shall annually inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students and others in the community, about the contents, updates and implementation of this policy via the diocesan website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods. This annual notification shall include information on how to access the Diocesan School Wellness policy; information about the most recent triennial assessment; information on how to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the Diocesan Wellness policy; and a means of contacting Health/Wellness Committee leadership.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.15,          210.31</p>	<p><u>Recordkeeping</u></p> <p>The Diocese shall retain records documenting compliance with the requirements of the Diocesan School Wellness policy, which shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The written Diocesan School Wellness policy.</li> <li>2. Documentation demonstrating that schools has informed the public, on an annual basis, about the contents of the Diocesan School Wellness policy and any updates to the policy.</li> <li>3. Documentation of efforts to review and update the Diocesan School Wellness policy, including who is involved in the review and methods used by the Diocese to inform the public of their ability to participate in the review.</li> <li>4. Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Diocesan School Wellness policy and notification of</li> </ol>

<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 1758b</p> <p>7 CFR Sec. 210.31</p> <p>SC 1513 Pol. 102, 105</p>	<p>the assessment results to the public.</p> <p><u>Health/Wellness Committee</u></p> <p>The Diocese shall establish a Health/Wellness Committee comprised of, but not necessarily limited to, at least one (1) of each of the following: School Board member, Diocesan administrator, a food service representative, student, parent/guardian, school health professional, physical education teacher and member of the public. It shall be the goal that committee membership will include representatives from each deanery within the diocese and reflect the diversity of the community.</p> <p>The Health/Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing, implementing and periodically reviewing and updating a Diocesan School Wellness policy that complies with law to recommend to the Board for adoption.</p> <p>The Health/Wellness Committee shall review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in establishing goals for nutrition education and promotion, physical activity and other school-based activities that promote student wellness as part of the policy development and revision process.</p> <p><u>Nutrition Education</u></p> <p>Nutrition education will be provided within the sequential, comprehensive health education program in accordance with curriculum regulations and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition education in the Diocese shall teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by students. Promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement.</li> <li>• Nutrition education shall provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives.</li> <li>• Nutrition education lessons and activities shall be age appropriate.</li> <li>• Nutrition curriculum shall teach behavior-focused skills, which may include menu planning, reading nutrition labels and media awareness.</li> <li>• Lifelong lifestyle balance shall be reinforced by linking nutrition</li> </ul>
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education and physical activity.

#### Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs.

- Diocesan schools shall promote nutrition through the implementation of Farm to School activities where possible. Activities may include, but not be limited to, the initiation/maintenance of school gardens, taste-testing of local products in the cafeteria and classroom, classroom education about local agriculture and nutrition, field trips to local farms and incorporation of local foods into school meal programs.
- School staff shall cooperate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition.
- School food service personnel shall review and implement research-based, behavioral economics techniques in the cafeteria to encourage consumption of more whole grains, fruits, vegetables and legumes, and to decrease plate waste.
- Consistent nutrition messages shall be disseminated and displayed throughout the district, schools, classrooms, cafeterias, homes, community and media.
- Consistent nutrition messages shall be demonstrated by avoiding use of unhealthy food items in classroom lesson plans and school staff avoiding eating less healthy food items in front of students.
- Diocesan schools shall offer resources about health and nutrition to encourage parents/guardians to provide healthy meals for their children.

#### Physical Activity

- Diocesan schools shall strive to provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day for all students.
- Diocesan schools shall contribute to the effort to provide students opportunities to accumulate at least sixty (60) minutes of age-appropriate

<p>SC 1512.1 Pol. 102, 105</p>	<p>physical activity daily, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opportunities offered at school will augment physical activity outside the school environment, such as outdoor play at home, sports, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students shall participate daily in a variety of age-appropriate physical activities designed to achieve optimal health, wellness, fitness and performance benefits.</li> <li>• Age-appropriate physical activity opportunities, such as outdoor and indoor recess, before and after school programs, during lunch, clubs, intramurals and interscholastic athletics, shall be provided to meet the needs and interests of all students, in addition to planned physical education.</li> <li>• A physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students shall be maintained.</li> <li>• Extended periods of student inactivity, two (2) hours or more, shall be discouraged.</li> <li>• Physical activity breaks shall be provided for students during classroom hours.</li> <li>• Before and/or after-school programs shall provide developmentally appropriate physical activity for participating children.</li> <li>• Diocesan schools shall partner with parents/guardians and community members and organizations, such as YMCAs, Boys &amp; Girls Clubs, local and state parks, hospitals, etc., to institute programs that support lifelong physical activity.</li> <li>• Physical activity shall not be used or withheld as a form of punishment.</li> <li>• Diocesan schools shall promote physical activity through encouragement of walking and biking as a means of transportation to and from school.</li> <li>• Students and their families shall be encouraged to utilize district-owned physical activity facilities, such as playgrounds and fields, outside school hours in accordance with established Diocesan rules.</li> </ul> <p><u>Physical Education</u></p> <p>A sequential physical education program consistent with curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented. All Diocesan students must participate in physical education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality physical education instruction that promotes lifelong physical activity and provides instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation shall be provided.</li> </ul>
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- Physical education classes shall be the means through which all students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- A comprehensive physical education course of study that focuses on providing students the skills, knowledge and confidence to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity shall be implemented.
- A varied and comprehensive curriculum that promotes both team and individual activities and leads to students becoming and remaining physically active for a lifetime shall be provided in the physical education program.
- Adequate amounts of planned instruction shall be provided in order for students to achieve the proficient level for the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.
- A local assessment system shall be implemented to track student progress on the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.
- Students shall be moderately to vigorously active as much time as possible during a physical education class. Documented medical conditions and disabilities shall be accommodated during class.
- Safe and adequate equipment, facilities and resources shall be provided for physical education courses.
- Physical education shall be taught by certified health and physical education teachers.
- Appropriate professional development shall be provided for physical education staff.
- Physical education classes shall have a teacher-student ratio comparable to those of other courses for safe and effective instruction.
- Physical activity shall not be used or withheld solely as a form of punishment.

Other School Based Activities

Safe drinking water shall be available and accessible to students, without restriction and at no cost to the student, at all meal periods and throughout the school day.

Nutrition professionals who meet hiring criteria established by the Diocese and in compliance with federal regulations shall administer the school meals program. Professional development and continuing education shall be provided for district nutrition staff, as required by federal regulations.

7 CFR  
 Sec. 210.10,  
 220.8  
 SC 701, 742

42 U.S.C.  
 Sec. 1751 et seq,  
 1773  
 7 CFR





<p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.11,          220.12, 210.31</p>	<p><i>Competitive Foods –</i></p> <p>Competitive foods available for sale shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). These standards shall apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold to students, which may include, but are not limited to: a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack carts and fundraisers.</p> <p><b>Competitive foods</b> are defined as foods and beverages offered or sold to students on school campus during the school day, which are not part of the reimbursable school breakfast or lunch.</p>
<p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.11,          210.31</p>	<p>For purposes of this policy, <b>school campus</b> means any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that students may access during the school day.</p>
<p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.11,          210.31</p>	<p>For purposes of this policy, <b>school day</b> means the period from midnight before school begins until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day.</p>
<p>Pol. 229</p>	<p><i>Fundraiser Exemptions –</i></p> <p>Fundraising activities held during the school day involving the sale of competitive foods shall be limited to foods that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, unless an exemption is approved in accordance with applicable Board policy and administrative regulations.</p>
<p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.11</p>	<p>Diocesan schools may allow a limited number of exempt fundraisers as permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education each school year: up to five (5) exempt fundraisers in elementary and middle school buildings, and up to ten (10) exempt fundraisers in high school buildings. <b>Exempt fundraisers</b> are fundraisers in which competitive foods are available for sale to students that do not meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.</p> <p>The Diocese shall establish administrative regulations to implement fundraising activities in Diocesan schools, including procedures for requesting a fundraiser exemption.</p>
<p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.11</p>	<p><i>Non-Sold Competitive Foods –</i></p> <p>Non-sold competitive foods available to students, which may include but are not limited to foods and beverages offered as rewards and incentives, at classroom</p>

<p>7 CFR          Sec. 210.11,          210.31</p>	<p>parties and celebrations, or as shared classroom snacks, shall meet or exceed the standards established by the Diocese.</p> <p>If the offered competitive foods do not meet or exceed the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, the following shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foods and beverages shall not be used as a reward for classroom or school activities unless the reward is an activity that promotes a positive nutrition message (e.g. guest chef, field trip to farm or farmer’s market, etc.).</li> <li>• Classroom parties and celebrations shall offer a minimal amount of food containing added sugar as the primary ingredient.</li> <li>• Classroom parties/celebrations with food/beverages shall be limited to no more than one (1) per month in each classroom.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians shall be informed through newsletters or other efficient communication methods that food/beverages should only be brought in when requested for scheduled parties.</li> <li>• Fresh fruits/vegetables, water, 100% juice, 100% juice diluted with water, low-fat milk, or non-fat milk shall be offered.</li> </ul> <p>Diocesan schools shall provide a list of suggested nonfood ideas and healthy food and beverage alternatives to parents/guardians and staff.</p> <p><i>Marketing/Contracting –</i></p> <p>Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School) and comply with established Board policy and administrative regulations.</p>
<p>SC 504.1</p>	<p>Exclusive competitive food and/or beverage contracts shall be approved by the Board, in accordance with provisions of law. Existing contracts shall be reviewed and modified to the extent feasible to ensure compliance with established federal nutrition standards, including applicable marketing restrictions.</p> <p><u>Management of Food Allergies in Diocesan Schools</u></p>
<p>Pol. 209.1</p>	<p>Diocesan schools shall establish regulations to address food allergy management in order to:</p>

1. Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.
2. Ensure a rapid and effective response in case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
3. Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

Safe Routes to School

Diocesan schools shall cooperate with local municipalities, public safety agency, police departments and community organizations to develop and maintain safe routes to school.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 504.1, 701, 742, 1337.1, 1422, 1422.1, 1422.3, 1512.1, 1513

National School Lunch Program – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751 et seq.

School Breakfast Program – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1773

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 – P.L. 111-296

National Food Service Programs, Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations –  
7 CFR Part 210, Part 220

Board Policy – 102, 103, 103.1, 105, 209.1, 229, 808