

# Local Wellness Policy (LWP) *In a Nutshell*



The Local Wellness Policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 and strengthened by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). It requires each School Food Authority (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to develop a wellness policy. The final rule expanded the requirements to strengthen policies and increase transparency. **SFAs were required to be compliant with the final rule by June 30, 2017.**

## **Content of the Wellness Policy**

**The responsibility for developing, implementing, and evaluating a wellness policy is placed at the local level, so the unique needs of each SFA can be addressed. At a minimum, policies are required to include:**

- **Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.** SFAs are required to review and consider evidence-based strategies in determining these goals.
- **Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day** that are consistent with federal regulations for school meal nutrition standards and the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additionally, the wellness policy should include language regarding **federally defined nutrition standards for school meals.**
- **Standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day** (e.g., in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
- **Policies for food and beverage marketing** that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- **Description of public involvement, public updates, and policy leadership.**
- **Establishment/identification of wellness policy leadership** of one or more SFA officials who have the authority and responsibility to ensure compliance.
- **Description of how the wellness policy and updates are made available to the public, on an annual basis.**
- **Description of a wellness policy assessment** which must occur at least **once every 3 years, that measures**
  - ✓ compliance with the wellness policy
  - ✓ how the local wellness policy compares to a model policy
  - ✓ progress made attaining the goals of the wellness policy

**The first triennial assessment must be completed by June 30, 2020\*. The assessment must be made available to the public.**

\*Due to COVID-19, USDA Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs extends the new regulatory deadline for the first assessment to June 30, 2021. If the SFA accepts the new deadline, a second triennial assessment would need to be complete by June 30, 2024. **SFAs must notify DPI of the intent to utilize this waiver by filling out the [Triennial Assessment Waiver Notification Form](#) by June 30, 2020.**

## Completing the Triennial Assessment

DPI requires all SFAs to use the Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Report Card to fulfill the triennial assessment requirement. The Wisconsin Team Nutrition's Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Report Card is a free tool that Wisconsin SFAs must use to evaluate compliance with their policy and provide a description of progress made toward meeting policy goals. SFAs enter their policy specific objectives and evaluate to what extent the objectives were achieved. The Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment can be found on the [Local Wellness Policy](#) webpage.

The Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Report Card also includes a section for SFAs to input their WellSAT scores. The WellSAT assessment evaluates how your local wellness policy compares to model policy language. The WellSAT includes 67 policy items considered to be best practices for school wellness. SFAs rate the extent to which their policy contains language related to each policy item.

## Wisconsin Resources

- [Local Wellness Policy Webinar](#) will walk SFAs through the requirements set forth in the final rule of Local School Wellness Policy Implementation under the HHFKA of 2010.
- [Local Wellness Policy Checklist](#) is a resource that will help SFAs determine if all content areas are included in their school wellness policy.
- [Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy into Practice](#) is a resource designed to assist SFAs with developing comprehensive policies that incorporate new policy requirements while establishing a framework for accountability. The resource provides information on required policy components and includes best practices that will assist SFAs with creating and maintaining a strong wellness policy.
- [Local Wellness Policy Builder](#) is an online tool designed to assist SFAs in creating comprehensive school wellness policies that meet the final rule established by the USDA in August 2016.
- [Local Wellness Policy Builder - Full Text](#) is a compilation of all statements available in the *Local Wellness Policy Builder Online Tool*.

