POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: AE-RA
Responsible Offices: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS, DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES, OFFICE OF STUDENT AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS, DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF WELLNESS

WELLNESS

A. PURPOSE

To ensure that Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) promotes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coordinated School Health Program through a wellness lens that includes health education, physical education and physical activity, nutrition environment and services, health services, counseling and social services, social and emotional climate, physical environment, employee wellness, family engagement, and community involvement; and to also promote the CDC Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model which is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement, and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices.

B. ISSUE

AACPS recognizes that good health, sound nutrition, regular physical activity, and a healthy school environment foster staff and student attendance, education, achievement, and a healthy lifestyle. AACPS further recognizes that student and staff health and wellness are an important component of a high achieving learning environment that serves as a foundation to elevate all students and eliminate all gaps.

C. POSITION

1. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) supports the engagement of parents/guardians, students, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, compiling baseline data, and reviewing countywide health, nutrition, and physical education policies, regulations, programs, and plans.

2. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes the physical health, mental health, nutrition, and academic achievement of AACPS students.

3. The Board supports an AACPS wellness lens – a school-level assessment tool to assess and prioritize practices that promote student physical health, mental health, and nutrition in schools – which will assist in the implementation of procedures to meet the goals for the promotion of the CDC's WSCC student-centered model that emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement, and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices.

4. The Superintendent shall implement nutrition education, physical education, health education, and mental wellness programs, services, and activities in the public schools that foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity among students and staff, and also establish linkages between health education, physical education, school nutrition programs, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, and related community partners and services.

5. The Board supports the development of curriculum, programs, and activities by the Superintendent that afford AACPS students and staff the opportunities, support, and encouragement to lead a healthy lifestyle.

6. The Superintendent shall employ qualified professionals to promote the CDC's WSCC model.

7. AACPS shall adhere to wellness requirements set forth by local, State, and federal agencies.

8. AACPS shall ensure compliance, at the school level, for all 10 components of the CDC's Coordinated School Health Program.

9. Wellness-related guidance and resources shall be published via the AACPS Wellness Toolkit located on the AACPS website.

10. The Wellness Council (Council) shall conduct a comprehensive triennial assessment that includes a review and analysis of the implementation of this policy.

11. On an annual basis, the Council shall provide a report and presentation to the Superintendent and the Board.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted on 04/19/17; Revised 09/16/20; 09/07/22; Reviewed 05/13/25; 11/02/26

Note Previous Policy History: Adopted 07/12/06

Legal References: Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; 7 CFR Parts 210 and 220; 81 Federal Register 50156; Maryland Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School