

***Shanél Valley Academy***

# **School Wellness Policy**

*Updated 03/16/23  
Board Approved 03/16/23*

## Table of Contents

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## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Preamble .....  | 1  |
| I. School Wellness Committee .....  | 2  |
| Committee Role and Membership .....   | 2  |
| Leadership .....  | 2  |
| II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement ..... | 3  |
| Implementation Plan .....   | 3  |
| Record keeping .....  | 3  |
| Triennial Progress Assessments .....  | 3  |
| Revisions and Updating the Policy .....   | 4  |
| Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications .....                                      | 4  |
| III. Nutrition .....  | 5  |
| School Meals .....  | 5  |
| Staff Qualifications and Professional Development .....                                       | 5  |
| Water .....   | 6  |
| Competitive Foods and Beverages .....   | 6  |
| Celebrations and Rewards .....  | 6  |
| Fundraising .....   | 6  |
| Nutrition Promotion .....   | 6  |
| Nutrition Education .....   | 7  |
| Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools .....  | 7  |
| IV. Physical Activity .....   | 9  |
| Physical Education .....  | 9  |
| Active Academics .....  | 9  |
| V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness .....                                       | 10 |
| Community Partnerships .....  | 10 |
| Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement .....  | 10 |
| Professional Learning .....   | 10 |
| USDA Nondiscrimination Statement .....  | 11 |
| Glossary .....  | 12 |
| Endnotes .....  | 13 |

## Preamble

Shanél Valley Academy (hereafter referred to as SVA) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The School Food Authority (hereafter referred to as SFA) believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create positive, safe, and health- promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition, and physical activity before, during, and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students.<sup>8,9,10</sup> In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education, and extracurricular activities – do better academically.<sup>11,12,13,14</sup>

This policy outlines the SFA's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the SFA have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus—in accordance with Federal and State nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and expanded learning.
- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the SFA in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The SFA establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff and programs in the School. Specific measurable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

## I. School Wellness Committee

### *Committee Role and Membership*

The SFA will convene a representative school wellness committee (hereto referred to as the SWC) that meets at least twice per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this SFA-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The SWC membership will represent all school levels and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (ex., food service director); teachers; and mental health and social services staff (i.e., school counselor, community school director); school principal, school board members; health professionals (ex., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public. To the extent possible, the SWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

### *Leadership*

The principal will convene the SWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

| Name  | Title / Relationship to the school | Email Address  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Kristi McCullough<br/>Principal</b>      | Wellness Coordinator               | <a href="mailto:kmac@shanelvalleyacademy.com">kmac@shanelvalleyacademy.com</a>       |
| <b>Melissa Kendall<br/>Business Manager</b> | Food Service Director              | <a href="mailto:melissa@shanelvalleyacademy.com">melissa@shanelvalleyacademy.com</a> |
| <b>Lucia Ornelas</b>                        | Food Service Manager               | <a href="mailto:lucia@shanelvalleyacademy.com">lucia@shanelvalleyacademy.com</a>     |

## **II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement**

### ***Implementation Plan***

Shanél Valley Academy will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where and when; as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: <https://www.sanelvalleyacademy.com/board-policies/>

### ***Record keeping***

Shanél Valley Academy will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at the School's Administrative Offices. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the School uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the SWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

### ***Triennial Progress Assessments***

At least once every three years, the Shanél Valley Academy will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which student centers under the jurisdiction of the School are in compliance with the wellness policy;
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the School's wellness policy.

The SWC will monitor compliance with this wellness policy.

Shanél Valley Academy will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

### *Revisions and Updating the Policy*

The SWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the triennial assessments and/or as school priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or State guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

### *Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications*

Shanél Valley Academy is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. SVA will actively communicate ways in which representatives of SWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that SFA. SVA will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. SVA will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. SVA will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

Shanél Valley Academy will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. SVA will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

## III. Nutrition

### *School Meals*

Our school is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans*-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Select student centers within the school participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). SVA is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students.
- Are appealing and attractive to children.
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings.
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, State, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The SFA offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:
  - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
  - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
  - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
  - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
  - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
  - Alternative entrée options are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
  - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students
  - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
  - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
  - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.

### *Staff Qualifications and Professional Development*

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs.

### *Water*

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day\* and throughout every student center\* (“student center” and “school day” are defined in the glossary). SVA will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. Students will be allowed to bring and carry water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

### *Competitive Foods and Beverages*

Shanél Valley Academy is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to at student centers during the school day\* support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks>.

### *Celebrations and Rewards*

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The school will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents.
3. Rewards and incentives. Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

### *Fundraising*

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers (outside of instructional time) on the SVA campus at least thirty minutes after the end of the instructional day in accordance with school policy for fundraising. The school will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas. The standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events.

### *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. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students, and the community.



- Menus are available at <https://www.myschoolmenus.com/> and will include nutrient content and ingredients.
- Menus will be created/reviewed by a Registered Dietitian or other certified nutrition professional.
- School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
- The school child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs as required by law.

### ***Nutrition Education***

Shanél Valley Academy will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Programs will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects.
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and participatory activities.
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods.
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

### ***Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools***

Shanél Valley Academy is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. SVA strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on School property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the school is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the school to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold at student centers, consistent with the School's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students at the student centers *\*during the school day\** will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes an oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product.<sup>15</sup> This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors.
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items are not required; however, schools will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that is financially possible over time so that items are in compliance with the marketing policy).
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered or sold by the school.
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings.
- Free product samples, taste tests or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As the School Leadership Team reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the school wellness policy.

### IV. Physical Activity

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason. This does not include participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements.

To the extent practicable, Shanél Valley Academy will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe, and that equipment is available to students to be active. SVA will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

#### *Physical Education*

Shanél Valley Academy provides students with a regularly scheduled period within the school day for *Playworks*, an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with the national and state standards for physical education. *Playworks* is designed to strengthen the social, emotional, and physical development of children by providing safe, healthy and inclusive play and physical activity with the core values focusing on simple principles of play that ensures the most joyful, free and inclusive experience for all children:

- Cultivate Play – Using skills, strategies and diverse experiences to develop and engage in safe and inclusive spaces for play every day, because play matters and play works
- Center Equity – Committing to the persistent and iterative work of grounding practices in equity, including policies and decisions in order to achieve more just communities
- Continue Learning – Embrace a climate of learning, cultivating space for risk, growth, flexibility, and feedback in order to adapt, progress and thrive
- Collaborate within Communities – Empower diverse perspectives and promote inclusive, respectful environments so that our communities are emotionally safe places for every person to benefit from play.

SVA will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment, as necessary. SVA ensures that each student receives 30 mins per day of physical activity.

#### *Active Academics*

The SFA will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues, and physical activity facilities. The SFA will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being and optimal development.

### **V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness**

Shanél Valley Academy will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. SVA will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

Student centers within the Shanél Valley Academy are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the student center or the school's curriculum experts.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the SWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

#### ***Community Partnerships***

Shanél Valley Academy will develop and continue relationships with community partners in support of this wellness policy's implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

#### ***Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement***

Shanél Valley Academy will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the "Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications" subsection, the School will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the school's website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

#### ***Professional Learning***

When feasible, the SVA will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and student centers (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help School staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing school reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at the [Filing a Program Discrimination Complaint as a USDA Customer page](#) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) E-mail: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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### Glossary

**Expanded Learning** – the time during, before and after school that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

**Student Center** - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields, and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

**School Day** – the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

**Triennial** – recurring every three years.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>14</sup> Hillman C, Pontifex M, Castelli D, Khan N, Raine L, Scudder M, Drollette E, Moore R, Wu C-T, Kamijo K. *Effects of the FITKids randomized control trial on executive control and brain function*. *Pediatrics* 2014; 134(4): e1063-1071.
- <sup>15</sup> Change Lab Solutions. (2014). *District Policy Restricting the Advertising of Food and Beverages Not Permitted to be Sold on School Grounds*. Retrieved from <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/district-policy-school-food-ads>