



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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William J. Moloney
Commissioner of Education

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Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

CN05-G-21

TO: Food Service Directors, Superintendents, and Sponsor Representatives

FROM: Dan McMillan Director, Nutrition and Transportation Unit

DATE: May 13, 2005

SUBJECT: Local Wellness Policy -- Update and Future Guidance

Congress and the Colorado General Assembly have enacted legislation regarding local wellness policies for school districts and other agency sponsors. This memorandum is to provide you with and update on the legislation, and what guidance for implementation that you may expect.

Nationally, Section 204 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (copy attached for your reference) requires that local education entities (LEA's) adopt a local wellness policy, meeting certain minimum criteria, by the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

In Colorado, the Governor recently signed Senate Bill SB05-081, Nutrition and Physical Health in Schools, which encourages each school district in Colorado to adopt a wellness policy by July 1, 2006, incorporating the federal requirements above along with several additional suggested criteria (copy also attached for your reference). This state legislation was intended to be a complementary companion piece to the federal legislation.

CDE is in the process of developing a guidance packet to assist you in meeting the federal requirements, as well as the provisions in the state statute, and plan to have these materials to you this summer. There are many interested parties at the national, state, and local level that are anxious to assist and provide guidance. We are involving many of these partners, to include the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Action for Healthy Kids (COAFHK), Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition (COPAN) school site task force, and Colorado Connections for Healthy Schools coordinated school health program. Additionally, USDA now has wellness policy resources on their Team Nutrition web site at www.fns.usda.gov/tn, and the School Nutrition Association (SNA) also has resources at www.schoolnutrition.org.

Look for future guidance to come in the coming months.

Please contact our office if you have any questions at 303.866.6661, or 888-245-6092 outside of the Denver metro area.