



Senatobia Municipal School District

Wellness Policy

Rationale:

The link between health of students and learning is well documented. If children are to be successful in school they cannot be tired, hungry, sick, suffering from drug abuse, or worried that school is an unsafe environment in which they could become a victim of a violent act. It has become apparent that problems such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, obesity, bullying, and more-can adversely affect not only a child's health, but also his or her ability to learn! And that is precisely why a coordinated approach to school health can make a difference! A coordinated approach to school health improves kids' health and their capacity to learn through the support of families, schools, and communities working together. At its very core, a coordinated approach to school health is about keeping students healthy over time, reinforcing positive healthy behaviors throughout the school day, and making it clear that good health and learning go hand in hand.

Goal:

All students in Senatobia Municipal School District shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff in Senatobia Municipal School District are encouraged to model healthful eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

To meet this goal, the Senatobia Municipal School District adopts this school wellness policy with the following commitments to implementing a coordinated approach to school health. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interest of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in culture.

Commitment to Nutrition

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer a school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code EE-2E).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code EEH).
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4011), www.healthyschoolsms.org/MSHealthyStudentsAct.htm.
 - Healthy food and beverage choices;
 - Healthy food preparations;
 - Marketing of healthy food choices to students and staff;
 - Food preparation ingredients and products;
 - Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;

- Availability of food items during the lunch and breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Programs;
- Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.
- Establish guidelines in accordance with the Mississippi Beverage and Snack Regulations for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student healthy and reducing childhood obesity
- Encourage student to make food choices based on the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, by emphasizing menu options that feature baked (rather than fried foods), whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables and reduced-fat dairy products.
- Establish a cafeteria environment conducive to a positive dining experience, with socializing among students and between student and adults; with supervision of eating areas by adults who model proper conduct and voice level; and with adults who model healthy habits by eating with the students.

Commitment to Food Safe Schools

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school site.
- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with the Fight Bac® (www.fightbac.org) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in school.
- Ensure that all staff have viewed the video developed by the Office of Healthy Schools to support food safety on the school campus. For compliance with the Nutrition Standards all staff must complete and sign pre and post test developed by the Office of Healthy Schools and maintain documentation of the completion. The video and Pre/Post Tests can be downloaded at: http://healthyschoolsms.org/ohs_main/instructionalvideo.htm.
- All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, foodservice staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy to include food safety policies and procedures and relevant professional development. Examples of professional development include, but are not limited to, the video developed by the Office of healthy Schools and *Eating Safely at School*, (<http://schoolhealth.nsba.org/site/docs/42400/42324.pdf>)
- Adequate access to hand washing facilities and supplies will be available whenever and wherever students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Commitment to Physical Activity/Physical Education

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, Mississippi Code of 1972, ann., reference 2004 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 32, Appendix B and 33).
- Kindergarten students will participate in physical activity for a minimum of 40 minutes per school

day. The 40 minutes does not have to take place continuously. This time should be used to help the child increase the skills involved in physical coordination (Kindergarten Guidelines).

- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.
- Require fitness testing for high school students; during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.
- Instruction must be based on the 2006 Mississippi Physical Education Framework.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007 (Senate Bill 2369).
- Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie units in physical education.

Commitment to Comprehensive Health Education

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Provide ½ Carnegie unit of comprehensive health education for graduation (2004 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- Instruction must be based on the 2006 Mississippi Comprehensive Health Framework for grades 9-12 (2004 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
- Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie units in physical education.
- Implement the requirements of House Bill 999, which requires the development of a sex related education policy and instruction on medically accurate or evidenced based abstinence-only or abstinence-plus curricula.
- Provide students with quality disease prevention instruction based on the Comprehensive Health Education Framework and other selected materials approved by the district.

Commitment to a Healthy School Environment

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Ensure that there are no pad locks or chains on exit doors; exits should be obstructed (in accordance with Mississippi Fire code). Ensure that all exit signs are illuminated and clearly visible.
- Ensure that all chemicals are stored properly (in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheet <http://www.msdssearch.com>).
- Refer to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's www.msdssearch.com); for federal guidelines for playground safety. Handbook for Public Playground Safety (
- Ensure that fire extinguishers are inspected each year and properly tagged.
- Complete yearly maintenance of the heating and cooling system in your school; check coils, filters, belts, etc. in order to maintain safe operation and healthy air quality.
- Conduct at least one emergency evacuation drill per month.

- Ensure that two means of egress are available in each classroom in case of an emergency; if there is only one door, designate a window (properly sized) as a means of egress.
- Never use extension cords as a permanent source of electricity anywhere on a school campus.
- Comply with the applicable rules and regulations of the State Board of Education in the operation of its transportation program (in accordance with the MS Code 37-41-53; State Board of Education Policies 7903, 7904, and 7909; and Accreditation Standard #35).
 - Inspect all buses on a quarterly basis and ensure that they are well maintained and clean.
 - Require that all bus drivers have a valid bus driver certificate and commercial driver's license and operates the bus according to all specified safety procedures. Maintain a record of yearly motor vehicle reports on each bus driver and evidence that each driver has received two hours of in-service training per semester. (SB Policy 7903).
 - Ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day.
 - Conduct bus evacuation drills at least two times each year. (
- Provide facilities that meet the criteria of: (MS Code 37-7-301 (c) (d) (j); 37-11-5, 49 and 45-11-101; and Accreditation Standard #36).
 - Provide facilities that are clean.
 - Provide facilities that are safe.
 - Provide proper signage that explains tobacco, weapons, and drugs are prohibited on the school campus and at school functions.
 - Provide operational facilities that are equipped and functional to meet the instructional needs of students and staff (in accordance with the Mississippi School Design Guidelines at www.edi.msstate.edu).
 - Provide air conditioning in all classrooms, Code §37-17-6(2) (2000).
- Comply with the requirements for Safe and Healthy Schools:
 - Maintain a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board. (MS Code 37-3-81 and 37-3-82(2); and Accreditation Standard #37.1); see the School Safety Manual and the MDE School Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Plan at: http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/healthy_school_environment/school_safety.htm.
 - State Board Policy EBB (1990) prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or weapons by any person on school premises or at school functions. Code §~~37-11-18~~ (1996) requires any student who possesses a knife, a handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commit a violent act on educational property to be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year. The superintendent of the school is authorized to modify the period of time for expulsion on a case-by-case basis.
- Prohibits students from possessing tobacco on any educational property, Criminal Code §97-32-9 (2000). Code §97-32-29 (2000) further prohibits the use of tobacco on any educational property for adults who, if in violation, would be subject to a fine and issued a citation by a law enforcement officer. Educational property is defined as any public school building or bus, campus, grounds, athletic field, or other property used or operated during a school-related activity.
- Develop and implement a local communicable disease policy
- Install security cameras on the school campus
- Utilize regularly scheduled meetings with the School Health Council, school board members, etc. to determine and discuss the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges associated with implementing and maintaining your school's healthy and safe environment.
- Conduct self-assessments of the school building(s) annually prior to school opening using the Bureau of Safe and Orderly Schools' Process Standard #36 Monitoring Too at www.healthyschoolsms.org/healthy_school_environment/buildinggrounds.htm

- Install locks on classroom doors in order to create security from the inside.
- Hire a District Safety Officer and School Resource Officers
- Utilize best practices for the use of pesticides and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in school buildings and on school grounds; IPM Institute of North America (www.ipminstitute.org and www.epa.gov/pesticides.ipm/index.htm)

Commitment to Quality Health Services

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care.
- Provide for teachers and other staff, health education regarding asthma action plans as directed in SB 2393
- The school nurse should attend at least one MDE sponsored training each school year.
- The school nurse should submit health services data on the 10th of each month for the previous month.
- Offer comprehensive health services for students in grades K-12, through the employment of school nurses, as a means to academic success.
- Optimize the provision of health services with a school nurse-to-student ratio of 1:750 for students in the general population.
- Collaborate with other school staff to provide health services as part of a Coordinated School Health Program.
- Work with students, parents, and local healthcare providers to effectively manage and treat chronic diseases.
- Promote healthy lifestyles through school and community events (PTA meetings, open houses, health fairs, teacher in-services, and other events).
- Participate in administrative claiming for reimbursement of administrative cost associated with health and medical research.

Commitment to Providing Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and scores a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.
- Provide at a minimum, a ½ time licensed guidance counselor for high school and ensure that all elementary school students have access to qualified student support personnel such as: guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists, psychometrists, and others (as required by the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, Process Standards 6.1 and 6.2).
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.

- Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:
 - Academic and personal/social counseling
 - Student assessment and assessment counseling
 - Career and educational counseling
 - Individual and group counseling
 - Crisis interventional and preventive counseling
 - Referrals to community agencies
 - Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents, and community leaders
 - Education and career placement services
 - Follow-up counseling services
 - Conflict resolution
 - Other counseling duties or other duties as assigned by the school principal
 - Provide teachers and administrators with health education on the topic of suicide prevention according to SB 2770.
- Offer quality counseling, psychological and social services provided by professionals such as certified school counselors, psychologists, and social workers.
- Provide additional services to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health.
- Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions, and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.
- Hire qualified counselors who will address the mental health, academic, and career needs of students in the school setting.

Commitment to Family and Community Involvement

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Give parents and community the opportunity to serve on the School Health Council (SHC).
- Schedule school health events and invite parents and the public to attend.

Commitment Implementing a Quality Staff Wellness Program

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan that has been enhanced to include *Motivating Mississippi: Keys to Living Healthy*, a new wellness and health promotion program designed to help individuals live a healthy lifestyle and increase their overall wellness benefit.
- Implement a healthy weight program for staff, such as *Mississippi In Motion*.
- Coordinate Staff Wellness events and activities with state and national health observances throughout the school year

Commitment to Marketing a Healthy School Environment

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Provide positive, consistent, and motivating messages, both verbal and non-verbal, about healthy lifestyle practices throughout the school setting. All personnel will help reinforce these positive messages.
- Use traditional marketing materials such as posters, flyers, T-shirts, wrist bands, buttons, etc. to promote health messages to student and families.
- Involve students in the local school health council for planning and marketing school health messages throughout the school.

Commitment to Implementation

The Senatobia Municipal School District will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy. • Designate one or more persons to insure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written.
- Establish and support a School Health Council (HC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134.)
- Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year o indentify areas for improvement.
- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary.
- Use monitoring instruments, developed by the Office of Healthy Schools, to conduct a self assessment that identities strengths and weaknesses toward implementation of the minimum requirements. Monitoring instruments can be downloaded at www.healthyschoolsms.org.ohs_main/resources.htm.

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