

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy Wellness Policy

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The Palmdale Aerospace Academy Wellness Policy

Preamble

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy is committed to the optimal development of every student. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy 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.[i] [ii] [iii] [iv] [v] [vi] [vii] Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students.[viii] [ix] [x] 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.[xi] [xii] [xiii] [xiv]. Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance. ^{15, 16, 17}

This policy outlines The Palmdale Aerospace Academy'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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy 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 after school;

§ 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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and

§ The Palmdale Aerospace Academy 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 school. Specific measureable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

The Wellness Committee meets at least three times 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 wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The Wellness Committee membership will represent all school grade levels and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program; physical education teachers; health education teachers, school counselors, school administrators.

Leadership

The Headmaster or designee(s) will convene the Wellness Committee and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure The Palmdale Aerospace Academy’s compliance with the policy.

Name	Title / Relationship to the School or District	Email address	Role on Committee
Rebecca Zapata	Food Service Manager	rzapata@tpaa.org	Assists in the implementation/ evaluation of the wellness policy
Maria Rivera	Kitchen Supervisor	mmrivera@tpaa.org	Assists in the implementation/ evaluation of the wellness policy
Marianne Rowerdink	Health Office Manager	Merowerink@tpaa.org	Assists in the implementation/ evaluation of the wellness policy
Tanya Maldonado	Executive Assistant	tmaldonado@tpaa.org	Assists in the implementation/ evaluation of the wellness policy

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy. Refer to Appendix A for a list of school-level wellness policy coordinators.

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

Implementation Plan

The Palmdale Aerospace 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 specific to The Palmdale Aerospace Academy; 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. It is recommended that the school use the [Healthy Schools Program online tools](#) to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: www.tpaa.org

Recordkeeping

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at the cafeteria office and/or on schools' central computer network. 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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the WC;
- § 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.

Annual Notification of Policy

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will make this information available via the schools' website. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. Annually, The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will also publicize the name and contact information of the school officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, The Palmdale Aerospace will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- § The extent to which the schools' wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- § A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of The Palmdale Aerospace Academy's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Rebecca Zapata Food and Fundraising Manager 661-273-3680.

The Wellness Committee will monitor the schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

The Wellness Committee will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The Wellness Committee will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as 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

The Wellness Committee is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will actively communicate ways in which representatives of WC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy 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. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the school'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. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that The Palmdale Aerospace Academy and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum.

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.

Our school participates in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), Second Chance Breakfast and the Supper Program. The school 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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- § Promote healthy food and beverage choices using the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):
 - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
 - 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.
 - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
 - 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 all coolers.

A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).

- 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 the school campus* ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). The school will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus* 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:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org.

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, à la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and snack or food carts.

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. Healthy party ideas are available from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The school will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.

3. Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus* during the school day*. The Palmdale Aerospace academy will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas [*examples from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and the [USDA](#)*].

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.

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- § Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#); and
- § Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that The Palmdale Aerospace Academy and individual schools may use are available at <http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/>.

Nutrition Education

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Schools 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, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- § 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);
- § Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- § Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- § Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- § Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- § Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- § Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- § Eating a variety of foods every day
- § Balancing food intake and physical activity
- § Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- § Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- § Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- § Eating more calcium-rich foods
- § Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- § Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- § Accepting body size differences
- § Food safety
- § Importance of water consumption
- § Importance of eating breakfast
- § Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- § Eating disorders
- § [The Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- § Reducing sodium intake
- § Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture
- § How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- § How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- § Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- § Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

The Palmdale Aerospace 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. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy 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 The Palmdale Aerospace Academy property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information The Palmdale Aerospace Academy is

imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of The Palmdale Aerospace Academy to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the The Palmdale Aerospace Academy wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus* during the school day* will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

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. 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, districts 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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy.
- § 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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy /school nutrition services/Athletics Department/PTA/PTO reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by The Palmdale Aerospace Academy's wellness policy.

IV. Physical Activity

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to break, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline students.

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

Physical Education

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in all grades. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will require middle and high school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 the following essential topics on physical activity:

- § The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- § How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- § How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- § How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- § Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- § Differences between physical activity, exercise and fitness
- § Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout and cool down
- § Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- § Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- § Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- § Preventing injury during physical activity
- § Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active
- § How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type of physical activity
- § Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- § Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- § Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- § Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture
- § How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- § How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- § How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity.

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Before and After School Activities

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will encourage students to be physically active before and after school.

Active Transport

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will support active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will encourage this behavior:

- § Promote activities such as participation in International Walk to School Week, National Walk and Bike to School Week
- § Secure storage facilities for bicycles, skate boards, and helmets
- § Instruction on walking/bicycling safety provided to students
- § Use crosswalks on streets leading to schools
- § Create and distribute maps of school environment (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, roads, pathways, bike racks, etc.)

V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy 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.

The Palmdale Aerospace 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 school or The Palmdale Aerospace Academy'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 Health Promotion and Family Engagement

The Palmdale Aerospace 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 Palmdale Aerospace Academy will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on The Palmdale Aerospace Academy'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.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The SWC will have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff. The subcommittee leader's name is Veronica Jenkins.

Schools in The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. Example of strategies schools will use, as well as specific actions staff members can take, include Weight Watchers, local hikes and trails. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost.

Professional Learning

When feasible, The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help 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.

Glossary:

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

School Campus - 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.

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