

JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Local Wellness Policy

2022 - 2025

This Local Wellness Policy (LWP) outlines the LEA'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. This policy applies to all students, staff and schools in the Johnstown Christian School. Specific measureable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.



Local Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

Johnstown Christian School will establish a Local Wellness Committee that meets at least two times per year to develop goals for and oversee implementation of school health and safety policies/programs, including periodic reviews and updates of this LWP.

The Local Wellness Committee will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (e.g., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (e.g., health education teachers, school health services staff (e.g., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services), and mental health and social services staff (e.g., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists); school administrators (e.g., superintendent, principal, vice principal); school board members; health professionals (e.g., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public. When possible, membership will also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education coordinators (SNAP-Ed).

Leadership

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

The designated official for oversight is Celeste Sprankle, Head of School (csprankle@jcsfamily.org)

Name	Title / Relationship to the School or District	Email address	Role on Committee
Amy McDowell	Business Manager	amcdowell@jcsfamily.org	School nutrition program representative
Dave Sprankle	Physical Education Teacher/AD	dsprankle@jcsfamily.org	Implementation of wellness plan throughout the school
Melinda Hodges	Elementary Principal	mhodges@jcsfamily.org	Elementary representative
Scott Mack	BOD President	boardpresident@jcsfamily.org	Board representative

Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

Johnstown Christian School will develop and maintain an implementation plan for implementing this LWP. This plan will delineate the roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines specific to each school; and include information about who will be responsible to making 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.

Johnstown Christian School will use a variety of tools (see list below) to complete school-level assessments of implementation of this plan; based on the results; Johnstown Christian School will create an action plan, implement the plan, and generate an annual report. Johnstown Christian School will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of this LWP at the Johnstown Christian School's main office.

Documentation maintained in these locations will include but is not be limited to:

- this written LWP;
- documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- documentation of efforts to review and update the LWP; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the LEA uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the Local Wellness Committee;
- documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- the most recent assessment on the implementation of the LWP; and
- assessment documents will be made available to the public.

Johnstown Christian School 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 school will make this information available via the school website <https://www.johnstownchristianschool.org/> and through Johnstown Christian School -wide communications. This will include a summary of the Johnstown Christian School's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the Johnstown Christian School also will publicize the name and contact information of the school officials leading and coordinating the Local Wellness Committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the Committee.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, Johnstown Christian School will conduct a Triennial Progress Assessment and develop a report that reviews Johnstown Christian School's compliance with this LWP. This assessment and report will include a full description of the progress made in attaining the goals of Johnstown Christian School's LWP.

The positions/persons responsible for managing the triennial assessment and report are Amy McDowell and Celeste Sprankle.

The above referenced individual will monitor Johnstown Christian School's compliance with this LWP and develop the triennial progress reports by utilizing, among other tools, the annual

LEA self-evaluations described in the above section. Johnstown Christian School will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Establishing a Plan to Measure the Impact and Implementation of the Local Wellness Policy

Johnstown Christian School will evaluate compliance and effectiveness of this LWP to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which Johnstown Christian School is following the LWP.
- The extent to which JCS's LWP compare to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy: and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of JCS's LWP.

Revisions and Updating the Local Wellness Policy

This LWP will be assessed and updated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment discussed above. The Local Wellness Committee will update or modify this LWP based on the results of Johnstown Christian School's annual self-assessment, the USDA triennial administrative review, and on other variables, including if/when Johnstown Christian School's health priorities change; the community's health needs change; the wellness goals are met; new health science arises, new technology emerges; and new federal or state guidance/standards are issued.

Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications

Johnstown Christian School is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the LWP. Johnstown Christian School actively communicates ways in which representatives of the Local Wellness Committee and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the LWP through a variety of means appropriate for Johnstown Christian School. Johnstown Christian School also will 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. Johnstown Christian School will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to this LWP annually, at a minimum. Johnstown Christian School will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports. Additionally, Johnstown Christian

School will disseminate this LWP to parents through posting it in the school office, on the school website, and through any parent-teacher organizations.

Nutrition

Johnstown Christian School is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and fat-free or low-fat dairy, that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, 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 students, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating habits to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns, and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Johnstown Christian School is committed to offering school meals through the National School Lunch Program:

- are accessible to all students;
- are appealing and attractive to students;
- are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local and federal statutes and regulations;
- ensure all qualified students will become eligible for free lunch;
- schools will provide at least 20 minutes of seat time for students to eat lunch and sufficient time during the lunch period for every student to pass through the service line;
- promote healthy food and beverage choices by using Smarter Lunchroom techniques, such as the following:
 - whole fruit options offered in attractive, accessible settings;
 - sliced or cut fruit offered, especially for age-appropriate students;
 - alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, vegetarian options, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas;
 - student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas;
 - placing white milk at the front of the coolers; and
 - student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas
 - daily announcements are used to promote menu items
 - menus are posted on the JCS website
 - students are allowed at least 20 minutes to eat lunch
 - students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of the day

- participation in the program will be promoted among families and students

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.

Water

To promote hydration, free, potable drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. Johnstown Christian School will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

Johnstown Christian School 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 <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/smart-snacks-school>

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. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Education permits schools to allow a limited number of exempt fundraisers each school year that do not have to meet Smart Snacks:

- Five per elementary and middle school
- Ten per high school building

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School's nutrition standards.

- JCS will provide parents and teachers a list of healthy food alternatives available at https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/allfoods_infographic.pdf and <https://www.healthiergeneration.org/>
- These healthy snack choices will be recommended for celebrations, parties, and classroom snacks.
- Classroom parties/celebrations shall offer a minimal amount of foods (maximum 2- 3 items) containing added sugar (e.g. cupcakes or cookies) and will provide the following:
 - Fresh fruits or vegetables: and
 - Water, 100% juice, 100% juice diluted with water or low-fat milk or non-fat milk.

Third-Party Vendors

Johnstown Christian School will not permit third-party vendors to sell foods or beverages of any kind to students on school property from midnight on the day school begins to 30 minutes after the school day ends, in accordance with Healthy Schools Act and USDA Smart Snacks Standards.

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. Johnstown Christian School will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas including the following: walk-a-thons, Jump Rope for Heart, and dodge-ball tournaments.

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

Johnstown Christian School 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. Johnstown Christian School strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health and physical activity. It is Johnstown Christian School's intent to protect and promote students'

health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with this LWP.

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, Johnstown Christian School will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that is in 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 Johnstown Christian School;
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings; and
- Free product samples, taste tests or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As Johnstown Christian School's school nutrition services, athletics department, Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by this LWP.

Nutrition Promotion

Johnstown Christian School 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 10 or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques; and
- ensuring 100 percent of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards

Ensuring Quality Nutrition Education, Health Education and Physical Education

Johnstown Christian School aims to provide age-appropriate and culturally sensitive instruction in nutrition, health and physical education that help students develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to enjoy healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle.

Nutrition Education

Johnstown Christian School 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;
- includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

Johnstown Christian School will include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- 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; e
- 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.

Health Education

Johnstown Christian School is dedicated to providing formal, structured health education, consisting of planned learning experiences that provide the opportunity to acquire information and the skills students need to make quality health decisions. As such, Johnstown Christian School will provide students a comprehensive school health education that address a variety of topics such as alcohol and other drug use and abuse, healthy eating/nutrition, mental and emotional health, personal health and wellness, physical activity, safety and injury prevention, sexual health, tobacco use, and violence prevention. Johnstown Christian School will provide health education that:

- is offered at each grade level, K-8, as part of a sequential, comprehensive, program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- is incorporated into classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;

- incorporates active learning strategies and activities that students find enjoyable and personally relevant;
- incorporates opportunities for students to practice or rehearse the skills needed to maintain and improve their health;
- incorporates a variety of culturally-appropriate activities and examples that reflect the community's cultural diversity;
- incorporates assignments or projects that encourage students to have interactions with family members and community organizations;
- includes professional development for all teachers in wellness topics.
- Additionally, in an effort to ensure reinforcement of health messages that are relevant for students and meet community needs, Johnstown Christian School will base its health education program, at least in part, on the results of the President's Physical Fitness Test. Johnstown Christian School will also seek to imbed health education as part of student visits with the school nurse, through posters or public service announcements, and through conversations with family

Physical Education and Physical Activity

Johnstown Christian School acknowledges the positive benefits of physical activity for student health and academic achievement. It is the goal of Johnstown Christian School that students engage in the recommended 60 minutes per day of physical activity. Additionally, recognizing that physical education is a crucial and integral part of a child's education, we will provide opportunities to ensure that students engage in healthful levels of vigorous physical activity to promote and develop the students' physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being.

The components of Johnstown Christian School's physical education program shall include a variety of kinesthetic activities, including team, individual, and cooperative sports and physical activities.

Students shall be given opportunities for physical activity through a range of before-and/or afterschool programs including, but not limited to, state activities such as intramurals, interscholastic athletics, and physical activity clubs. Johnstown Christian School will ensure that:

- students will receive at least 80 minutes per week of physical education,
- physical education teachers shall develop and implement a curriculum that connects and demonstrates the interrelationship between physical activity, good nutrition, and health;
- 50 percent of physical education class time is devoted to actual physical activity;
- suitably adapted physical activity shall be provided as part of the individualized education plan (IEP) developed for students with disabilities;

- physical education staff shall appropriately limit the amount or type of physical exercise required of students during air pollution episodes, excessively hot weather, or other inclement conditions; and
- physical activity is neither required nor withheld as punishment.