

KNOW YOUR STATE & DISTRICT POLICIES

The choices schools can make about their food environment are often governed by policies at many levels: federal, state, district, and school, and these policies can directly influence students' experiences of and decisions about food in school. These policies may make it easier—or harder—for your school community to make certain changes, so it is important to understand what policies are in place and how you might be able to influence them.

Below is a list of some of the policies that are helpful to know.

KNOW YOUR STATE & DISTRICT POLICIES WORKSHEET

STANDARDS AND PREFERRED CURRICULUM

1. Do the state and/or district academic standards include specific standards for nutrition education?

- The state has nutrition education standards.
- The district has nutrition education standards.
- There are no known nutrition education standards.

2. Does the district have a preferred nutrition curriculum? If so, how is it used?

- All grades use preferred curriculum and fully implement it.
- All grades use preferred curriculum but not all fully implement it.
- Some grades use preferred curriculum (fully or partially).
- One grade uses preferred curriculum (fully or partially).
- No grades use preferred curriculum.
- It is unknown how much grades use preferred curriculum.
- There is no known preferred curriculum.

3. Does the district have a preferred garden education curriculum? If so, how is it used?

- All grades use preferred curriculum and fully implement it.
- All grades use preferred curriculum but not all fully implement it.
- Some grades use preferred curriculum (fully or partially).
- One grade uses preferred curriculum (fully or partially).
- No grades use preferred curriculum.
- It is unknown how much grades use preferred curriculum.
- There is no known preferred curriculum.

DISTRICT WELLNESS PLAN OR POLICY

4. All school districts are required to have a Wellness Plan or Policy in place. What is the status of the school district's Wellness Plan/Policy?

- A Wellness Plan or Policy is in place, and the district has updated it in the past two years.
- A Wellness Plan or Policy is in place, but the district has not updated it recently.
- There is no known Wellness Plan or Policy.

5. Wellness Committees were originally required to implement district Wellness Plans or Policies. Is the Wellness Committee in the district active?

- Yes, it meets regularly.
- There is still a committee, but it does not have regular meetings.
- There is no current committee.

6. Does the district Wellness Plan/Policy cover a wide variety of topics related to the school food environment? What content is included?

- Healthy eating and nutrition
- School gardens
- Food policies (e.g., for celebrations, rewards, bake sales, or fundraisers)
- Promoting local foods
- Unknown what content is in the plan/policy
- No known plan/policy

LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT

7. Does the state and/or district have a policy about geographic preference for local food procurement? (Geographic preference provides a competitive advantage to local, minimally processed foods.)

- Yes, at the state level
- Yes, at the district level
- No known geographic preference policy

8. Is the state and/or district policy for geographic preference regularly used?

- Products from local growers or distributors are regularly requested or sought out in bids or orders.
- Products from local growers or distributors are sometimes requested or sought out in bids or orders.
- Local products may be supplied but are not specified in bids or orders.
- Policy exists, but is not implemented.
- No known geographic preference policy.