

#### **Wellness Committee 2025**

Meeting Date: May 28, 2025

#### **Committee Participants:**

Name	Position
Jim Smith	Chief Executive Officer
Eric Myers	Food Service Director
Stacey Scullion	Trustee – Licensed Dietician
Tina Vojtko	School Nurse
Kevin Harcarik	Physical Education/Health Teacher
Larissa Soroka	Parent
Hollie Parsons	Parent
Mark Popple	Community Member
Charlie Deeble	Student

#### **Topics of Discussion:**

- 1. The School's wellness policy aligns to the model policy provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and was Board-approved last on July 19, 2022. The Department accepted the approved Policy with no revisions.
- The School is in compliance with state and federal law relating to food service operations and school wellness. The School is scheduled for a program compliance review by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Food and Nutrition during the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.
- Bear Creek Community Charter School has experienced an increase in the number of nutritious school meals served to students, both breakfast and lunch, during the current 2024-2025 school year.
- 4. Students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge sponsored by the American Heart Association, and the School received a grant to support student wellness activities.
- 5. The School incorporated archery into the physical education curriculum, along with an after-school club.
- 6. The School sponsored after-school wellness activities including hiking as well as gardening of fresh fruits and vegetables. Students were provided with fruit and vegetable plants to take home and grow for their personal consumption, while student engaged in gardening on campus edible products which will eventually be consumed by students.

- 7. Drinking water. Drinking water is available on each classroom wing, along with the gymnasium This includes refrigerated drinking fountains and bottle fillers. Water is filtered. Drinking water is provided by Aqua Pennsylvania, a DEP-regulated public water supply.
- 8. The School utilizes an Offer Versus Serve approach to breakfast and lunch. An explanation was provided to participants. All school meals comply with the meal patterns promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture.
- 9. Other than breakfast, lunch and after-school snack associated with select school-sponsored activities, no other food or drink is sold during the school day.
- 10. Food items utilized during classroom parties (three per year) are balanced to include health-options with limited added sugars. The PTO takes the lead in coordinating these activities.
- 11. Information regarding the Wellness Policy is available on the School's web site, in the Student/Parent Handbook (updated annually) and in the Parents Guide to School Health brochure that is provided to all new parents.
- 12. An updated Wellness Policy will be provided to the School's Board of Trustees for approval at a public meeting on June 5, 2025.
- 13. Information regarding the Wellness Committee and triennial assessment was posted on the School's web site from May 29, 2025 through July 31, 2025.

For more information, contact:

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Food Service Director
Bear Creek Community Charter School
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### **Wellness Policy Checklist 2025**

- The policy identifies by job title the LEA/school official(s) responsible to ensure each school in the LEA complies with the policy.
- The policy includes a requirement for a triennial assessment (i.e., at least every three years) of the wellness policy that is made available to the public and is used to update the local wellness policy, as needed.
- The triennial assessment is required to include the following components:
  - Compliance of participating schools with the wellness policy;
  - · Comparison of the local policy to a model school wellness policy; and
  - Progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.
- The policy describes how the LEA informs and updates the public about the content of the wellness policy, including any policy updates, on at least an annual basis.
- The policy describes a wellness committee or other means of permitting participation of the community (including parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the public) in the development, implementation, periodic review, and update of the wellness policy.
- The policy contains specific goals for nutrition education.
- The policy contains specific goals for nutrition promotion.
- The policy contains specific goals for physical activity.
- The policy contains specific goals for other school-based activities that promote student wellness.
- The policy ensures that meals offered through the school meal programs are consistent with established federal meal standards.
- The policy contains nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available for sale on the school campus during the school day that are consistent with federal regulations for competitive foods (Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards).
- The policy includes standards established by the LEA for non-sold foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day (e.g., at classroom parties, as shared classroom snacks, and as a reward or incentive).
- The policy allows marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

L	EA/C	Distric	t Name: Bear Crfeek Co	mmunity	Charte	r Schoo	ol			Date Com	pleted: (	05/28/20	25
_	Jame(	s) of I	Reviewer(s): See Attach	ed		School	Name (	if applica	able):				
S	Select (	grade	s:										
F	rK 🗌	ΚX	1 X 2 X 3 X	4 X	5 X	6 X	7 X	8 X	9	10 1	11 12	2	
	Includ writter	ı poli									school Fully in	nented in building Partially	(s)? Not i
	Yes	No	Public In	volver	ment,	Notifi	catio	n, and	d Ass	essmer	Place 1 <b>t</b>	in Place	Place
	<b>⊗</b>	0	We have LEA official(s compliance. Name(s)/Title(s): Eric M	-		_		ness p	olicy		⊗	0	0
	$\otimes$	0	We complete an asses every three years ("trie Triennial assessment	sment o nnial as	f the lo	cal scho ent").	ool well				<b>©</b>	0	0
	$\otimes$	0	accessible manner. Website address and/or www.bearcreekschoo	descripti				-		,	$\otimes$	0	0
	$\otimes$	0	At least every three yeupdate or modify the with The LEA informs and u	ars we u veliness	policy a	as need	ed.				$\otimes$	0	0
and the second	⊗	0	implementation of the accessible to the publi Website address for poli www.bearcreekschool	wellness c. cy and/o	s policy	at leas	t annua	lly and	the pol		8	0	0
	<b>Ø</b>	0	We retain records as rec 图 The written school we 图 Documentation of ma 图 Documentation of out wellness committee / we 图 Copy of triennial asse	quired by Illness po king the reach eff Illness po	olicy, wellnes: orts invi olicy pro	s policy iting stal cess, ar	publicly ceholder nd	availab rs to par	rticipate		⊗	0	0
	8	0	The LÉA utilizes a well stakeholders in the de wellness policy:  ☑ Administrators ☑ F ☑ Parents ☑ School b	ness co velopme ood ser	mmittee ent, imp vice sta	e that in lementa	cludes ition, re	these oview, a	ommu nd upd	nity ate of the ionals	8	0	0
			☑ Public			, ,		·					
	Notes	s on	Other stakeholders (des	-									
					Nutri	tion E	ducat	ion*					
	<b>⊗</b>	0	Nutrition education is preducation standards.	ovided w					hensive	health	$\otimes$	0	0
A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	<b>⊗</b>	0	We teach, model, encou education.	ırage, an	d suppo	rt health	ıy eatinç	g throug	h nutriti	on	8	0	0

	ded in en poli		school I	ented in t building( Partially	s)? Not in
Yes	No	We provide all students with knowledge and skills for healthy lives via nutrition	Place	in Place	Place
$\otimes$	O	education.  We offer age-appropriate nutrition education and activities to students in:		_	
Ø	0		$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	Our nutrition education curriculum teaches behavior-focused skills such as menu- planning, reading nutrition labels, and media awareness.	0	$\otimes$	0
$\otimes$	0	School food service and nutrition education classes work together to create a learning laboratory.	0	$\otimes$	0
$\otimes$	0	In addition to meeting academic standards for nutrition education, we integrate	$\otimes$	0	0
<b>⊗</b>	Õ	nutrition education into a variety of subjects (e.g., math, science, language arts). We reinforce lifelong lifestyle balance by linking nutrition and physical activity.	$\otimes$	0	0
8	Õ	Staff providing nutrition education receive standards-based training and	$\otimes$	0	0
8	0	professional development. We engage and involve families and the community in nutrition education efforts. Other goal (describe):	0	⊗	0
Note	es on	goals for nutrition education: Nutrition education provided during Health class as in various lessons in both Science and Environment (Eco Explorers Curriculum - Next Generation Scient Nutrition Promotion*	ntal Edu	ication (	Class
		We use evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages in school and	_	_	
$\otimes$	0	encourage participation in school meal programs.	$\otimes$	0	O
$\otimes$	0	We participate in Farm to School activities such as having a school garden, tastetesting local products, incorporating local foods into school meals, and educating students in the classroom and on field trips about local agriculture.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We cooperate with community agencies and organizations to provide opportunities for student projects related to nutrition.	0	$\otimes$	0
$\otimes$	0	We implement behavioral economics techniques in the cafeteria to encourage consumption of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables and to decrease plate waste.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We display and disseminate consistent nutrition messages in schools, classrooms, cafeterias, homes, community, and media.	$\otimes$	0	0
<b>⊗</b>	0	Our staff model healthy eating in front of students and avoid using unhealthy	$\otimes$	0	0
⊗	0	foods in classroom lesson plans. We offer health and nutrition resources to parents to help them provide healthy	$\otimes$	0	0
_		meals for their children. Other goal (describe): Included on food service page of new/revamped school	web site	Э.	
Not	es on	goals for nutrition promotion: Purchase local maple syrup. We have an apiary extract honey. We also raise vegetables and here		and	
		Physical Activity*			
$\otimes$	0	We provide a variety of developmentally appropriate opportunities for physical activity during the school day for all students.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We contribute to the effort to provide students daily opportunities to accumulate at least sixty minutes of age-appropriate physical activity daily as recommended by the CDC.	$\otimes$	0	0

	ded in en poli		school Fully in	building( Partially	s)? Not in
Yes	No	the state of the s	Place	in Place	Place
$\otimes$	0	In addition to planned physical education, we offer activities such as indoor and outdoor recess, before and after school programs, intramurals, interscholastic athletics, and clubs to meet the needs and interests of our students.	$\otimes$	0	0
∅	0	We maintain a physical and social environment that encourages safe and	$\otimes$	0	0
	_	enjoyable activity for all students. We discourage extended periods of inactivity (two hours or more) for students.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	00	We provide physical activity breaks in the classroom.	<b>⊗</b>	00	00
8	0	We offer before and/or after-school programs that include physical activity for participating children.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We partner with parents/guardians and community members and organizations (e.g., YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, local parks, hospitals, etc.) to offer programs	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	supporting lifelong physical activity. We do not use physical activity as a punishment (e.g., running laps).	$\otimes$	Q	Q
$\otimes \otimes \otimes$	Q	We do not withhold physical activity as a punishment (e.g., taking away recess).	8	Ø	800
⊗	0	We encourage walking and biking to school.  We encourage students and families to use our physical activity facilities, such as		_	
$\otimes$	0	playgrounds and ball fields, outside of school hours in accordance with school rules.	$\bigotimes_{i}$	0	0
		Other goal (describe): Rural location of school along major highway prevents s and walking to school.	afe bik	ing	
Not	es on	goals for physical activity: Hiking Club, Movement & Lap Club, Jump Rope Club Gym, Field Day, etc.	, Biddy	Bruins,	Open
		Physical Education (PE)			
$\otimes$	0	We implement a PE program consistent with state academic standards.  All students participate in PE.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	PE instruction promotes skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong physical activity.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	PE classes provide the means for students to learn, practice, and be assessed on	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	developmentally appropriate skills. Our curriculum promotes both team and individual activities.	$\otimes$	0	0
<b>⊗</b>	0	We offer a comprehensive PE course of study with planned instruction time for	$\otimes$	0	0
<b>⊗</b>	$\circ$	students to meet standards at the proficient level.  We use a local assessment system to track student progress on state standards.	$\otimes$	0	0
W		Students are moderately to vigorously active as much time as possible during PE	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	class. Accommodations are made in class for documented medical conditions and	O	0	
Ø	0	disabilities. We provide safe and adequate equipment, facilities, and resources for PE class.	$\otimes$	0	000
$\otimes \otimes \otimes$	0	Certified health and PE teachers teach our classes.	888	000	8
$\otimes$	0	We provide professional development for PE staff. PE classes have a teacher-student ratio similar to other courses for safe and	8	Õ	ŏ
⊗	0	effective instruction.	<b>⊗</b>	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We do not use or withhold physical activity as a form of punishment in PE class.  Other goal (describe):	v		

Notes on goals for physical education: Continued participation in Kids Heart Challenge; added Archery to Physical Education curriculum and as an optional club.

Implemented in the

Included in the

	ded in n poli	school Fully in	ented in building( Partially	g(s)? y Not ir	
Yes	No		Place	in Place	Place
		Other School-Based Wellness Activities*			
$\otimes$	0	Free drinking water is available and accessible to students during meal periods and throughout the school day.	$\otimes$	0	0
<b>⊗</b>	0	School nutrition staff meet local hiring criteria and in compliance with federal	$\otimes$	0	0
Ø	0	regulations. We provide continuing education to school nutrition staff as required by federal	$\otimes$	0	0
	0	regulations. We provide adequate space for eating and serving school meals.		0	0
$\otimes$	8	We provide a safe and clean meal environment for students.	$\otimes$	0	
$\otimes$	0	We offer students enough time to eat (10 minutes sit down time for breakfast; 20 minutes sit down time for lunch) and schedule meal periods at appropriate hours. We implement alternate school breakfast service models to increase participation,	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	such as "grab & go," breakfast served in the classroom, and breakfast after first	$\otimes$	0	0
80	0	period. Students have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals.	Ø	0	000
$\otimes \otimes \otimes$	Ŏ	Only authorized staff have access to the food service operation.	080	0	8
8	0	We provide the nutrition content of school meals to the school community.  We include students/parents in menu selections through taste-testing and	<b>⊗</b>	Ö	0
⊗	0	surveys.			
Ø	8	We utilize outside funding and programs to enhance school wellness.  We train all staff on the components of the school wellness policy.	888	000	000
$\otimes \otimes \otimes \otimes$	8	School based activities are planned with wellness policy goals in mind.			
$\otimes$	0	Fundraising projects submitted for approval are supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We encourage administrators, teachers, school nutrition professionals, students, parents/guardians, and community members to serve as positive role models	$\otimes$	0	0
		through district programs, communications, and outreach.	1-4	_	_
$\otimes$	0	We communicate information to parents/guardians to support their efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.	Ø	0	0
$\otimes$	0	Indoor air quality is in accordance with our healthy learning environment program and applicable laws and regulations.	Ø	0	0
		Other goal (describe):			
Note	es on	goals for other school-based activities: Added a second breakfast cart to meet of Pre-Service Food Service Training held.			5.
		Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages at So	chool		
$\otimes$	0	We consider promoting student health and reducing obesity when offering foods and beverages to students at school.	$\otimes$	0	0
<b>⊗</b>	0	Foods and beverages provided through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs comply with federal meal standards.	$\otimes$	0	0
$\otimes$	0	We offer healthy food and beverage options at school-sponsored events, such as	$\otimes$	0	0
_	_	dances and sporting events.  Foods and beverages outside of the school meal, which are sold to students			
$\otimes$	0	at school during the school day, meet or exceed the established federal competitive food standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). Venues include vending, school stores, non-exempt fundraisers, and a la carte	<b>⊗</b>	0	0
		itams			

	ded in en poli			ented in t building( Partially in Place	
Yes	No O	We limit the number of food fundraisers at school and have procedures in place for requesting a fundraiser exemption (i.e., selling foods that do not meet Smart	⊗	0	0
$\otimes$	0	Snacks) in accordance with limits set by PDE.  We have local standards in our written policy for foods and beverages offered for free to students at school, including food rewards, items offered at classroom parties and celebrations, and foods/beverages provided to the	⊗	0	0
$\otimes$	0	class as shared classroom snacks.  We provide a list of nonfood ideas and healthy food/beverage alternatives to staff and parents/guardians.	Ø	0	0
⊗	0	Only foods and beverages that meet or exceed federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School) are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students during the school day. Examples: posters, vending machines, menu boards, cups for beverage dispensing, coolers, trash cans.	<b>⊗</b>	0	0
Not	es on	nutrition guidelines for foods and beverages at school: No fundraising during the food. Class parties include healthy foods. No soda.	school de at lea	day invo	olving
* At I	east (	one goal for these categories <u>must</u> be included in the written policy per federal	regulat	tions.	
Re	oort o	n the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy (REQUIRED):			
	kpand	e students and parents on Offer Versus Serve. opportunities for students to engage in physical activity (example: additional club School opportunities, etc.	opport	unities,	į
Ind	crease	e participation in both breakfast and lunch.			