



## *Local Wellness Policy* – Summary for Public Comment

The DCPS *Local Wellness Policy* shares requirements and goals across a range of areas and programs designed to promote student wellness. As a part of our commitment to supporting the needs of the whole child, DCPS plays a critical role in promoting student health and wellness. A school environment that encourages the overall health of students and provides tools that lead to lifelong patterns of healthy behaviors is integral to a student's ability to learn and develop in all parts of their life.

### Policy Overview

The *Local Wellness Policy* includes the following sections:

- **Ensuring Quality Health Education, Physical Education, and Physical Activity**

Shares DCPS requirements and goals for health and physical education and physical activity across all grades, include Pre-K, elementary, middle, and high school.

- **Nutrition Environment and Services**

Describes DCPS policy on nutrition promotion and education, school breakfast and lunch programs, fresh fruit and vegetables programs, meal times and scheduling, competitive food standards, food-based fundraisers, nutritional standards, vending machines, and allergies and dietary restrictions.



- **Physical Environment**

Details DCPS initiatives on building sustainability, energy efficiency, and indoor air quality, as well as information on DCPS' environmental literacy plan.

- **Ensuring a Safe & Supportive School Climate**

Shares information on bullying prevention, LGBTQ student supports, and school mental health programs.

- **Health Services**

Details health requirements in DC law, immunizations, access to medication, section 504, school health services programs, school-based health centers, sexual health services, and employee wellness.

- **Family Engagement and Community Involvement**

Shares information on how the *Local Wellness Policy* will be shared with the community for their participation, engagement, and awareness.

- **Local Wellness Policy Checklist & Contact Information**

Includes a checklist for schools on the necessary steps to follow and implement the *Local Wellness Policy* and the contact information for various DCPS offices/teams that support student wellness.



## Key Improvements in the Draft Policy

- Updates amount of time each week that **Health Education** must be taught in elementary, middle, and high school to remain in compliance with DC law.
- Adds requirements on **food-based fundraisers** to avoid conflicts with school meal service, ensure these fundraisers are not being held excessively, and encourage non-food fundraisers.
- Shares information on DCPS' improvements to indoor air quality in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as DCPS' work on **LEED certifications**/building sustainability and how new DCPS modernizations will pursue the **WELL Building Standard** for advancing health and well-being in buildings.
- Adds information on DCPS' implementation of the DC **Environmental Literacy Plan** in our schools.
- Updates DC legal requirements for student **immunizations**, including information on COVID-19 immunizations.
- Adds information on undesignated **EpiPens** (i.e., for anyone experienced an anaphylactic reaction) in our schools.
- Details expansion of **school-based health centers** to serve students enrolled in other schools with pediatric immunizations and COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible students.

