

Final Rule for Local School Wellness Policies Action Steps for School Year 2016–17

To meet the requirements for the final rule (FR), the California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that beginning in School Year (SY) 2016–17, local educational agencies (LEA), districts, or schools:

Review the FR and summary of the rule on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) School Meals FR under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) Web page at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/fr-072916c>.

Establish local school wellness policy (LSWP) leadership of one or more LEA or school official(s) who have the authority and responsibility to ensure each school complies with the policy. Make sure the position or title of the LSWP leader(s) is made available to the public by June 30, 2017. Some suggestions for public notification include posting the information on the LEA Web page or sending out the information through district correspondence.

Build or re-engage your district wellness committee, making sure to invite the various stakeholders to participate—be sure to collect documentation of community involvement. The California LSWP Collaborative has developed a School Wellness Committee Guide located on the Dairy Council of California School Wellness LSWP Web page at <http://www.healthyeating.org/Schools/School-Wellness/School-Wellness-Policies.aspx>.

Continue to inform and update the public about the content, implementation, and assessment of wellness policies. By June 30, 2017, LEAs must update the public annually. By SY 2019–20, LEAs must conduct and report on the triennial assessment of wellness policies. Keep a contact log as documentation.

Update the LSWP to meet the requirements in the FR by the June 30, 2017. The CDE recommends using the model LSWP policy template from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, which is located on the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Take Action Schools Wellness Committees Policies Web page at https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take_action/schools/wellness_committees_policies/.

A best practice is to tailor the language in the model policy to fit local priorities and resources. The San Diego County Obesity Prevention Initiative Resources Policy Clearinghouse Web page at <http://www.ourcommunityourkids.org/resources/policy-clearinghouse.aspx> has a policy clearinghouse that provides useful examples of policy language. The CDE recommends the Well SAT 2.0 tool for assessing the strength of the policy language as it compares to model policy. The tool can be accessed on the Well SAT Web site at <http://www.wellsat.org/>.

Begin the process for conducting an assessment by developing a work plan to complete the assessment by the deadline for compliance of three years after updating the LSWP or no later than June 30, 2020. The CDE recommends using the School Health Index (SHI) as an assessment tool. The SHI can be accessed on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web page at https://nccd.cdc.gov/DASH_SHI/default/Login.aspx.

Develop or update the LSWP implementation plan and begin monitoring progress to meet the deadline for compliance of June 30, 2017. Consult the resources on the USDA FNS Implementation Tools and Resources Web page at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/implementation-tools-and-resources>.

Keep all supporting documentation on file as LEAs will be held accountable for LSWP implementation, assessment, and public updates.

Visit the CDE LSWP Web page often at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/wellness.asp>, as the CDE will continue to update resources. Another resource is the California LSWP Collaborative Web page located on the Dairy Council of California School Wellness Web page at <http://www.healthyeating.org/Schools/School-Wellness.aspx>

This document can be located the California Department of Education's Local School Wellness Policy Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/mbsnp202016.asp>