

# IMANI CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

## **Purpose:**

Imani Christian Academy (ICA) recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. Imani is committed to providing a safe school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices, including health and physical education that improves student achievement, Imani also recognizes that staff and parent/guardians involvement is an integral part of establishing a healthy school environment.

Imani Christian Academy adopts this policy based on the recommendations of the Wellness Committee and in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, The Board of Directors establishes that ICA shall provide to students:

A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.

Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutrition guidelines.

Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day.

Curriculum and programs for grades K-12 that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with Pennsylvania State common course standards.

The CEO/Head of School or designee shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy to ensure each of the school's (ICA's) programs and curriculum is compliant with this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.

Staff members responsible for programs related to school wellness shall report to the CEO/Head of School or designee regarding the status of such programs.

The CEO/Head of School or designee shall periodically report to the Board of Directors on ICA's compliance with law and policies related to school wellness. The report may include:

- Assessment of school environment regarding school wellness issues.
- Evaluation of food service program.
- Review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines.
- Recommendations for policy and/or program revisions.

Feedback received from ICA staff, students, parents/guardians, community members and the Wellness Committee.

The CEO/Head of School or designee and the established Wellness Committee shall conduct an assessment at least once every three (3) years on the contents and implementation of this policy as part of a continuous improvement process to strengthen the policy and ensure implementation. This triennial assessment shall be made available to the public on the district website and shall include:

- The extent to which ICA is in compliance with law and policies related to school wellness.
- The extent to which this policy compares to model wellness policies.
- A description of the progress made by ICA in attaining the goals of this policy.

At least once every three years, ICA shall update or modify this policy as needed, based on the results of the most recent triennial assessment and/or as school and community needs and priorities change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information and technologies emerge; and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued.

ICA shall annually inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students and others in the community, about the contents, updates and implementation of this policy via the ICA website. This annual notification shall include information on how to access the School Wellness policy; information about the most recent triennial assessment; information on how to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of ICA's Wellness policy; and a means of contacting the ICA Wellness Committee leadership.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **Recordkeeping**

ICA shall retain records documenting compliance with the requirements of the School Wellness policy, which shall include:

- The written ICA School Wellness policy.
- Documentation demonstrating that ICA has informed the public, on an annual basis, about the contents of the School Wellness policy and any updates to the policy.
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the School Wellness policy, including who is involved in the review and methods used by ICA to inform the public of their ability to participate in the review.
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the School Wellness policy and notification of the assessment results to the public.

### **Wellness Committee**

ICA shall establish a Wellness Committee comprised of, but not necessarily limited to, the following: CEO/Head of School, designee, food service technician, student, parent/guardian, staff member and physical education teacher.

The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing, implementing and periodically reviewing and updating an ICA School Wellness policy that complies with the law to recommend to the Board of Directors for adoption.

### **Nutrition Education**

Nutrition education will be provided within the sequential, comprehensive health education program in accordance with curriculum regulations and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Nutrition education in ICA shall teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by students. Promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement.

Nutrition education shall provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead health lives.

Nutrition education and lessons and activities shall be age-appropriate.

Nutrition curriculum shall teach behavior-focused skills, which may include menu planning, reading nutrition labels and media awareness.

### Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs.

ICA food service personnel shall review and implement research-based, behavioral economics techniques in the cafeteria to encourage consumption of more whole grains, fruits, vegetables and legumes, and to decrease plate waste.

### Physical Activity

ICA shall strive to provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day for all students.

ICA shall contribute to the effort to provide students opportunities for age-appropriate physical activity, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opportunities offered at school will augment physical activity outside the school environment, such as outdoor play at home, sports, etc.

Students shall participate in a variety of age-appropriate physical activities designed to achieve optimal health, wellness, fitness and performance benefits.

Age-appropriate physical activity opportunities, such as outdoor and indoor recess, before and after school programs, during lunch, clubs, intramurals and interscholastic athletics, shall be provided to meet the needs and interests of all students, in addition to planned physical education.

A physical and social environment that encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students shall be maintained.

Physical activity breaks shall be encouraged for students during classroom hours.

Before and/or after-school programs shall provide developmentally appropriate physical activity for participating children.

## Physical Education

A sequential physical education program consistent with curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented. All ICA students must participate in physical education.

Quality physical education instruction that promotes lifelong physical activity and provides instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation shall be provided.

Physical education classes shall be the means through which all students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

A comprehensive physical education course of study that focuses on providing students the skills, knowledge and confidence to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity shall be implemented.

A varied and comprehensive curriculum that promotes both team and individual activities and leads to students becoming and remaining physically active for a lifetime shall be provided in the physical education program.

Adequate amounts of planned instruction shall be provided in order for students to achieve the proficient level for the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.

A local assessment system shall be implemented to track student progress on the Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards.

Students shall be moderately to vigorously active as much time as possible during a physical education class. Documented medical conditions and disabilities shall be accommodated during class.

Safe and adequate equipment, facilities and resources shall be provided for physical education courses.

Physical education shall be taught by certified health and physical education teachers.

Appropriate professional development shall be provided for physical education staff.

Physical education classes shall have a teacher-student ratio comparable to those of other courses for safe and effective instruction.

## Other School Based Activities

Drinking water shall be available and accessible to students, without restriction and at no cost to the student, at all meal periods and throughout the school day.

Nutrition professionals who meet hiring criteria established by ICA, and in compliance with federal regulations, shall administer the school meals program. Professional development and continuing education shall be provided for nutrition staff, as required by federal regulations.

ICA shall provide adequate space for eating and serving school meals.

Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.

Students shall be provided adequate time to eat.

ICA shall implement alternative service models to increase school breakfast participation where possible.

Meal periods shall be scheduled at appropriate hours, as required by federal regulations.

Students shall have access to hand washing or sanitizing before meals and snacks.

Access to the food service operation shall be limited to authorized staff.

Nutrition content of school meals shall be available to students and parents/guardians.

Goals of the School Wellness policy shall be considered in planning all school based activities.

Fundraising projects submitted for approval shall be supportive of healthy eating and student wellness.

ICA shall maintain a healthy school environment, including but not limited to indoor air quality, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

#### Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods/Beverages at School

All foods and beverages available in ICA during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing obesity.

Foods and beverages provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with established federal nutrition standards.

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day, such as athletic events and dances, may offer healthy alternatives in addition to more traditional fare.

#### Competitive Sold Foods

Competitive foods available for sale shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). These standards shall apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold to students, which may include, but are not limited to: a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack carts and fundraisers.

#### Fundraiser Exemptions

Fundraising activities held during the school day involving the sale of competitive foods shall be limited to foods that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, unless an exemption is approved.

ICA may allow a limited number of exempt fundraisers as permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education each school year: up to five (5) exempt fundraisers in elementary and middle schools and up to ten (10) exempt fundraisers in

high school. Exempt fundraisers are fundraisers in which competitive foods are available for sale to students that do not meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

#### Non-Sold Competitive Foods

Non-sold competitive foods available to students, which may include but are not limited to foods and beverages offered as rewards and incentives, at classroom parties and celebrations, or as shared classroom snacks, shall meet or exceed the standards established by ICA.

#### Rewards and Incentives:

Foods and beverages shall be reviewed and approved by the principal.

#### Classroom Parties and Celebrations:

Classroom parties/celebrations with food/beverages shall be limited to no more than one (1) per month in each classroom.

Parents/Guardians shall be informed that foods/beverages should only be brought in when requested for scheduled parties.

Food celebrations shall not occur until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the last lunch period.

#### Shared Classroom Snacks:

Shared classroom snacks shall be reviewed and approved by the principal.

#### Marketing/Contracting

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students at ICA during the school day shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School).

#### Management of Food Allergies

ICA shall establish Board policy to address food allergy management in order to:

- Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.
- Ensure a rapid and effective response in case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
- Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

### Safe Routes to School

The charter school shall cooperate with local municipalities, public safety agencies, police departments and community organizations to develop and maintain safe routes to school