**Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter School Wellness Policy**

Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter School is invested in the well-being of our students, staff, and community. Healthy dietary and physical activity practices can lower the risk for heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Healthy eating choices and activity patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential and a healthy lifestyle. Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects our student’s wellness, proper nutrition, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. shall organize a wellness committee with school employees, parents, and our community to participate, develop, and implement our wellness policy. A copy of this policy will be sent home with all students and published on our website for anyone to review.

**Nutrition Promotion**

Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. participates in the federal school food program. Appropriate nutrition guidelines will be followed by the Nutrition department. All food and drinks that are provided will meet the federal school nutrition food program guidelines. Students will be given enough time to consume their meals in a clean eating environment.

Wellness Goal for SY 2019: A new school nutrition poster will be placed in the cafeteria every other month.

**Nutrition Education**

The students will learn the importance of healthy eating habits through menu options and bulletin boards in the lunchroom. School Nutrition Staff will continue training to insure that all nutrition guidelines and requirements are met.

Wellness Goal for SY 2019: Teachers will provide nutrition education for each of the foods planted in the school gardens.

All fund raisers that include selling of food during the school hours, will be approved by the Nutrition Director and meet smart snack guidelines.

**Physical Activity**

Physical Education teachers will teach students the importance of physical activities in order to obtain a healthy lifestyle. The Physical Education curriculum will meet all state requirements. Students will be encouraged to be involved in physical activity in the community, school sponsored events, and extracurricular activities. Some of these events might include the school’s softball, baseball, and cheerleading teams.

Wellness Goal for SY 2019: All classes will log the fitness gram results will be recorded twice a year. The goal for the students are to improve on the fitness gram from November to April. The School Nutrition Director will spot check each class during the school year to determine success in meeting the goal.

**Assessment**

The triennial assessment for wellness will be conducted by the wellness committee every three years starting in school year 2020. The school wellness policy will be compared to the model wellness policy. Results of the assessment will be posted in the school entrance hall and presented at a parent/teacher meeting. The wellness committee will adjust the policy as needed to ensure that all requirements shown in the model wellness policy are in the school wellness policy.

**Wellness Committee**

The Wellness Committee will be composed of School Administrators, School Nutrition Director, Physical Education teachers, parents, Board Members and community stakeholders. Triennial Assessments and annual updates will be processed. The Wellness Policy, along with any assessments, will be located on the school’s website at <http://swgeorgiastem.ga.schoolinsites.com/> in the Nutrition section. Periodic assessments of the wellness policy will be conducted and updates will be administered as needed. Any volunteers (in the school and community) are welcome to participate in the implementation and assessment process.

 Member of the Wellness Committee

* Nicole Horn, Nutrition Director
* Sandi Henson, Physical Education Teacher
* Shawn Banks, Physical Education Teacher
* Jessica Redding, Parent and Dance Instructor
* Courtney Ferguson, Parent and Board Member

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf), (AD-3027) found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

 (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

 (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

 (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.