

**Roxbury Preparatory Charter School
Local Wellness Policy
2025-2026**

Preamble

Roxbury Preparatory Charter School (hereto referred to as the District) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, we need to create positive, safe and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism and better performance on cognitive tasks.^{i,ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii} Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students.^{viii,ix,x} In addition, students who are physically active do better academically.^{xi,xii,xiii,xiv} Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance.^{15,16,17}

This policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy works to ensure that:

- Students in the District have access to healthy foods throughout the school day in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during and after school;
- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the District in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The District establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

Committee Role and Membership

The District will convene a representative district wellness committee (hereto referred to as the DWC) that meets at least two times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety

policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The DWC membership will represent all school levels (middle and high school) and will be open to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program; physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals, and mental health and social services staff; school administrators, school board members; health professionals and other members of the community where appropriate. To the extent possible, the DWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Nutrition Director will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

The designated official for oversight is:

Mary Henningsen
Nutrition Director
Director of School Support
(617)566-2361
Mary.henningsen@roxburyprep.org

Name	Title / Relationship to the School or District	Email address	Role on Committee
Roxbury Prep Proctor Street Middle School • Staff • Family Council			
Roxbury Prep Dorchester Campus • Staff • Family Council			
Roxbury Prep High School • Staff • Family Council			
Regional Team – Social Work			
Regional Team - Administrator			

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

The District will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The DWC will create an action plan that fosters implementation and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at:
roxburyprep.uncommonschools.org/family-resources/.

Recordkeeping

Roxbury Prep will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy on the school's computer network. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the DWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the district website and/or district-wide communications. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the District are in compliance with the wellness policy; and

- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Mary Henningsen, Nutrition Program Director, (617)566-2361, mary.henningsen@roxburyprep.org.

Roxbury Prep will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The DWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on school health information and triennial assessments and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. The District will also inform parents of compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

Nutrition

School Meals

Our school district is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans*-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Roxbury Prep participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and is a Community Eligibility School (CEP). All schools within the District are committed to offering school meals that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. Currently, Roxbury Prep **does not sell or provide** any foods or beverages outside of the school meal programs. In the future, if Roxbury Prep did choose to sell or serve foods and beverages outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages), those foods and beverages will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. It should be noted that:

- Snacks are not available in school for student purchase.
- Snacks may be brought from home for children’s own consumption, with the understanding that some classrooms may need to restrict some types of snacks due to specific allergies that classmates or staff may have, such as peanut allergies. Parents are encouraged to send healthy snacks that will provide the “fuel” for effective learning.
- Parents are to refrain from sending snacks to be shared. This is because every school has children who have severe, life-threatening allergies of all kinds. No child shall be put at risk of having an allergic reaction to foods brought into school.
- Administrators may make exceptions to this to approve curriculum based food activities.
- Staff members are expected to follow the same procedures for any food they bring in to share with their classes or allow other students to bring in and share.
- No fundraising activities or school store sales involving food will occur during the breakfast or lunch period.

- Any corporate sponsor or corporate partnerships shall meet all previously stated guidelines and shall not compromise Roxbury Prep's Local Wellness Policy.

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.
3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

Nutrition Education

- Nutrition instruction will be taught as a sequential, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect health. (MGL Chapter 71, Section 1)
- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs'
- Nutrition Educators will collaborate with the food service staff to strengthen and extend instruction.

Physical Activity

- Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated daily, weather permitting.
- Physical Activities programs, such as intramurals, extended day programs, extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports are available for all students.
- Physical activity, during the school day, will not be used as punishment (e.g., running laps, pushups) nor is it desirable to routinely restrict physical activity for disciplinary reasons, unless related to violations that occur during the physical activity periods.

Physical Education

- Physical Education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students (MGL Chapter 71, Section 3)
- Student involvement in other activities involving physical activity will not be substituted for physical education class.
- Physical Education should be taught to students throughout the school year to provide the maximum activity exposure and instructional continuity.
- Physical Education instruction will incorporate NASPE's Quality Physical Education guidelines including opportunity to learn, meaningful content and appropriate instruction.
- The Physical Education program should match the MA Health Curriculum Framework and the National Standards for Physical Education (NASPE).

Wellness Promotion

- Instruction in health education shall be taught as a sequential, standards-based program and incorporate the MA Health Frameworks standards (MGL Chapter 71, Section 1)
- The Health Education program should match the MA Health Curriculum Framework and the National Health Education Standards.

Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

The District will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting. The District will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

Community Partnerships

The District will develop relationships with community partners in support of this wellness policy's implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement

The District will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the "Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications" subsection, the District will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the district's website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to

parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The DWC will identify and disseminate wellness resources and support staff wellness.

Schools in the District will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

Professional Learning

When feasible, the District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

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¹⁵ Change Lab Solutions. (2014). *District Policy Restricting the Advertising of Food and Beverages Not Permitted to be Sold on School Grounds*. Retrieved from <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/district-policy-school-food-ads>

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