

Triennial Assessment Report: Canton Assessment (4/2025)

District: CANTON

Introduction

In the spring of 2025 the Nutrition Services Director along with the School Wellness Committee members reviewed our current Local School Wellness Policy to assess if our policy meets all the requirements set forth by the Federal Government, as well as how we are doing in practice when it comes to meeting our wellness goals. This is a triennial assessment, the previous assessment was completed in the spring of 2022. Canton did very well and improved in both total comprehensiveness and total strength of actual practices of the policy itself. Our score in comprehensiveness increased from an 88 to a 100 and in strength of actual practices from a 76 to an 85.

Strong Policies and Aligned Practices

Skills bases, behavior focused and interactive/participatory methods are used in education to develop student skills. All students in elementary, middle and high school now receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education. The district has a written physical education curriculum that is aligned with national and state standards. This program promotes a physically active lifestyle. Canton's School Nutrition Program is Healthy Food Certified meeting all federal standards for breakfast and lunch for meal patterns, nutrient levels and calorie requirements for all grades served. Canton assures the privacy and confidentiality of all students qualifying for free and reduced meals. All Nutrition Services Staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA's Professional Standards requirements?

The District Wellness Committee members from Administration, Nutrition Services, Wellness, Nurses, Physical Education, Students and Community Members.

		Policy Score	Practice Score	
FR1	Does the district have specific goals for nutrition education designed to promote student wellness?	2	2	☆
FR2	Do your National School Lunch Program meals (and, if applicable, School Breakfast Program meals) meet all federal standards for meal patterns, nutrient levels, and calorie requirements for the grade levels served?	2	2	☆
FR3	Does your school take steps to protect the privacy of students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals?	2	2	☆
FR4	Is free (i.e., no cost to students) drinking water available to students during meals?	2	2	☆




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FR5	Do all school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff meet or exceed the annual continuing education/training hours required by the USDA's Professional Standards requirements?	2	2	☆
FR6	Do all competitive foods and beverages sold to students during the school day meet or exceed the USDA's nutrition standards, commonly called Smart Snacks?	2	2	☆
FR7	Do all a la carte foods and beverages sold in the cafeteria meet Smart Snacks standards?	2	2	☆
FR13	Which groups are represented on the district-level wellness committee?	2	2	☆
FR14	Is there an official who is responsible for the implementation and compliance with the wellness policy at the building level for each school?	2	2	☆
FR15	How is the wellness policy made available to the public?	2	2	☆
FR16	Is wellness policy implementation evaluated every three years?	2	2	☆
FR17	What is included in the triennial assessment report to the public?	2	2	☆
NES1	Does the district offer breakfast every day to all students?	2	2	☆
NES2	Does your school take steps to address feeding students with unpaid meal balances without stigmatizing them?	2	2	☆
NES3	Does your school or district provide information to families about eligibility for free or reduced-price meals?	2	2	☆
NES4	Does your school use strategies to maximize participation in the school breakfast program and/or school lunch program?	2	2	☆

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NES5	Are marketing strategies used to promote healthy food and beverage choices in school?	2	2	☆
NES6	Do students have at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they are seated?	2	2	☆
NES8	Do you know where to access the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards to check and see if an item can be sold in school during the school day?	2	2	☆
NES9	Are you familiar with any state laws allowing exemptions for school-sponsored fundraisers during which foods and beverages do not have to meet Smart Snacks?	2	2	☆
NES10	Are foods or beverages containing caffeine sold at the high school level?	2	2	☆
NES11	Do all foods or beverages SERVED (not sold) to students after the school day on school grounds (including aftercare, clubs, and afterschool programming) meet federal nutrition standards (e.g., CACFP or Smart Snacks)?	2	2	☆
NES12	Do all foods or beverages SOLD (not served) to students after the school day on school grounds (including aftercare, clubs, and afterschool programming) meet federal nutrition standards (e.g., CACFP or Smart Snacks)?	2	2	☆
NES13	Do teachers or school staff give students food as a reward?	2	2	☆
NES14	Do students have consistent and easy access to free drinking water throughout the school day?	2	2	☆
NE1	Are skills-based, behavior-focused, and interactive/participatory methods used in nutrition education to develop student skills?	2	2	☆
NE2	Do all elementary school students receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education?	2	2	☆

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NE3	Do all middle school students receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education?	2	2	☆
NE4	Do all high school students receive sequential and comprehensive nutrition education?	2	2	☆
PEPA1	 Does the district have a written physical education curriculum that is implemented consistently for every grade?	2	2	☆
PEPA2	Does the district have a written physical education curriculum that is aligned with national and/or state standards?	2	2	☆
PEPA3	How does your physical education program promote a physically active lifestyle?	2	2	☆
PEPA7	Are all physical education classes taught by state certified/licensed teachers who are endorsed to teach physical education?	2	2	☆
PEPA8	Is ongoing professional development offered every year for PE teachers that is relevant and specific to physical education?	2	2	☆
PEPA12	 Are there opportunities for all students to engage in physical activity before and after school?	2	2	☆
PEPA13	Is there daily recess for all grades in elementary school?	2	2	☆
PEPA15	Does the district have "joint-use" or "shared-use" agreements?	2	2	☆
PEPA16	What proportion of students walk or bike to school?	2	2	☆
PEPA17	 Are teachers encouraged to use physical activity as a reward for students?	2	2	☆


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PEPA18	Do teachers ever use physical activity as a punishment?	2	2	☆
PEPA19	Do teachers ever withhold physical activity as a classroom management tool?	2	2	☆
EW1	 Are there strategies used by the school to support employee wellness?	2	2	☆
EW2	Are school staff encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity behaviors in front of students?	2	2	☆
IC1	Is there an active district-level wellness committee?	2	2	☆
IC2	Is there an active school-level wellness committee?	2	2	☆

Create Practice Implementation Plan

The Wellness Committee will work with Administration to update the District Wellness Policy to include the improvements made by January 2026.

		Policy Score	Practice Score	
FR18	Has the wellness policy been revised based on the previous triennial assessment?	2	1	



Update Policies

During school year 2025/2026 the district will explore ways to procure additional farm to school items.

	Policy Score	Practice Score	









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NES7	 In your district, is it a priority to procure locally produced foods for school meals?	1	2	
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Opportunities for Growth

During School Year 2025/2026 the Wellness Committee will explore ways to connect Nutrition Services with the classroom.

		Policy Score	Practice Score	
FR11	Does your district regulate foods and beverages served at class parties and other school celebrations in elementary schools?	1	1	
NE5	Is nutrition education integrated into other subjects beyond health education?	1	1	
NE6	Do school nutrition services staff members use the following methods to collaborate with teachers to reinforce nutrition education lessons taught in the classroom?	1	1	
NE7	 Does nutrition education address agriculture and the food system?	1	1	
PEPA4	How many minutes per week of PE does each grade in elementary school receive?	1	1	
PEPA5	How many minutes per week of PE does each grade in middle school receive?	1	1	
PEPA6	How many minutes per week of PE does each grade in high school receive?	1	1	

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PEPA9	What percentage of students do you estimate do not take PE each year due to exemptions?	1	1	
PEPA11	 Are there opportunities for families and community members to engage in physical activity at school?	1	1	
PEPA14	 Do teachers provide regular physical activity breaks for students in the classroom?	1	1	

Conclusion

Canton has made some significant improvements since the previous assessment. We would like to see additional local purchases as well as connections between Nutrition Services and the classroom. Encouraging a healthy and physically active lifestyle will continue to be a priority.

Key



Strong Policies and Aligned Practices - District has a strong policy and is fully implementing practices that align with the policy



Create Practice Implementation Plan - District has a strong or weak policy, but practice implementation is either absent or limited



Update Policies Update Policies - District is fully implementing a practice but there is no or only weak language in the written policy, or the district is partially implementing practices and there is no language in the policy



Opportunities for Growth - District has either not addressed the topic in policy or practice; or has only addressed the topic in a very limited way

For more resources, visit: wellsat.org/resources

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