

Boys & Girls Village

Triennial Assessment of Local School Wellness Policy 2025

USDA requires all child nutrition program sponsors to create and maintain a **Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP)**. This is a written document of official policies that guide a school district's efforts to establish a school environment that promotes student health and their ability to learn. It encompasses strategies that support healthy eating and physical activity and covers such diverse topic areas as nutrition education, make-up and responsibilities of a Wellness Committee, and marketing of foods and beverages to students and district employee activities. The current Boys & Girls Village LSWP is available at:

<https://www.bgvillage.org/education-and-vocational/>

USDA also requires that each district participating in Child Nutrition programs complete an assessment of their local school wellness policy at least once every three years, called the Triennial Assessment. The assessment must indicate:

- The extent to which schools are following the district policy: *Policy vs Practice*
- The extent to which the local wellness policy compares to model policies and meets USDA requirements; and
- The progress made in attaining the goals of the local wellness policy.

The BGV LSWP was approved on 9/2023

Boys & Girls Village has conducted their LSWP Triennial Assessment using the Rudd Center at UConn WellSAT assessment tool. This tool provided an assessment of LSWP compliance with USDA regulations, the matching of policy language with actual practice in the school, and areas for strengthening language and detail in policy wording. The reports on all these areas are available on the agency website at: <https://www.bgvillage.org/education-and-vocational/>

There are some required areas that have not been addressed in specific policy language and include school breakfast program participation, seat time for both breakfast and lunch, maintenance of meal eligibility confidentiality, and dedication to purchasing local produce and products. This is a case of the actual practice in the agency not matching the language of the policy and can be easily corrected by the committee.

Boys and Girls Village has an active Wellness Committee that is comprised of most of the recommended stakeholders. Areas that have been identified as needing revision or updating will be addressed by this committee in their upcoming meetings. Although the

USDA policy requirements do not align perfectly with a Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) setting, Boys & Girls Village is committed to providing a healthy and supportive school environment for both residents and day students.

In addition to any identified areas needing revision or updating, there are several areas to be celebrated in the current school environment:

- ALL residents and day students are served all meals AT NO CHARGE. This is a strategy to maximize student participation in USDA programs. It also eliminates the social stigma of identification of free or reduced meal eligibility status.
- Students currently receive a morning snack (outside of USDA reimbursable programs) that might include highly refined, processed items. The agency has just been notified that they have been granted entry into the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP). This program provides funding for a fresh fruit OR veggie snack each school day that is served between breakfast and lunch. This program will provide opportunities for additional nutrition education, exposure to new healthy food items, and greatly improve the nutrition of offerings to all BGV students.
- The agency has just implemented a new meal counting software program to make mealtime service faster and more accurate.
- Considering the logistics and challenges that an RCCI has in matching the USDA requirements for school environments, Boys & Girls Village is doing an outstanding job in providing opportunities for physical activities, a sound and successful food service program, and dedicated teaching and support professionals. These factors will help to ensure that the residents and day students are exposed to the information and skill-building need to develop healthy adults.