New Horizons Charter Academy Wellness Policy

New Horizons Charter Academy (hereto referred to as the Charter School) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The Charter School 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 schoolyear.

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. ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7} Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students. ^{8,9,10} In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education and extracurricular activities – do better academically. ^{11,12,13,14}. Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance. ^{15,16,17}

This policy outlines the Charter School's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school daywhile minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the Charter School have access to healthy foods throughout the school day both through reimbursable school meals 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 Charter School in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The Charter School establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff and schools in the Charter School. Specific measureable goalsand outcomes are identified within each section below.

- The Charter School will coordinate the wellness policy with other aspects of school management,including the Charter School's School Improvement Plan, when appropriate.
- The Charter School will also include any relevant data or statistics from state or local sourcessupporting the need for establishing and achieving the goals in this policy

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

The Charter School will convene a representative Charter School wellness committee (hereto referred to as the DWC) that meets four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update ofthis Charter School-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as "wellness policy").

The DWC membership will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (e.g., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (e.g., health education teachers, school health services staff [e.g., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services], and mental health and social services staff [e.g., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists]; school administrators (e.g., superintendent, principal, vice principal), school board members; health professionals (e.g., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public. When possible, membership will also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education coordinators (SNAP-EDEDSNAP-Ed). To the extent possible, the DWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure school compliance with the policy. The designated official for oversight is the Director of Operations.

The name(s), title(s), and contact information (email address is sufficient) of this/these individual(s) is(are):

Name	Title / Relationship to the School or Charter School	Email address	Role on Committee
Richard Thomas	Executive Director	rthomas@nhcharteracademy.com	Supervises Designated Official
Naeem Rashid	Director of Operations	nrashid@nhcharteracademy	Designated Official
Yvette Steinorth	Instructor	ysteinorth@nhcharteracademy.com	Member
Bea Italia	Office Manager	bitalia@nhcharteracademy.com	Member
Janet Curiel	Parents In Action Committee President	jannetcuriel@live.com	Member

Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement

Implementation Plan

The Charter School will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions and timelinesspecific to each school; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where and when; as well as 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. It is recommended that the school use the Healthy Schools Program online tools to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: www.nhcharteracademy.com

Recordkeeping

The Charter School will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy in the K-4 main office (Lankershim building). Documentation maintained in this location willinclude 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
- 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 Charter School 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 Charter School willmake this information available via the Charter School website and/or Charter School-wide communications. The Charter School will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the Charter School's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the Charter School will also publicize the name and contact information of the Charter School/school officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how thepublic can get involved with the school wellness committee.

Triennial Progress Assessments

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

- The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the Charter School are in compliance with thewellness policy;
- The extent to which the Charter School's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a HealthierGeneration's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the Charter School's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is the Executive Director and designee. The DWC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy. The Charter School 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 the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as Charter School priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; andnew Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.

Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications

The Charter School is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The Charter School 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 Charter School. The Charter School will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and 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 Charter School will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the Charter School'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 supportthe policy. The Charter School will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the Charter School and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

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

II. Nutrition

School Meals

Our school Charter School 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 insaturated 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.

All schools within the Charter School participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the NationalSchool Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). All schools within the Charter School are committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and otherapplicable Federal child nutrition programs, 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 Charter School offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDAnutrition standards.)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following <u>Smarter</u>
 Lunchroom techniques:
 - Whole fruit options are available daily
 - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
 - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
 - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
 - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
 - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
 - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
- Menus will be posted on the Charter School website or individual school websites, and will includenutrient content and ingredients.
- School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
- The Charter School child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria).
- Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.

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 <u>USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals</u>. These school nutrition personnel will refer to <u>USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website</u> 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 Charter School will make drinkingwater available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The Charter School is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus* during the school day* support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim toimprove student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the schoolday and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks.

Celebrations and Rewards

One non-approved food item is allowed during the last fifteen minutes of the school day no more than once per month with administrator approval. All other times the following are encouraged:

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

Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus* during the school day*. The Charter School will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas [examples from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the USDA].

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. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students and the community.

The Charter School will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the schoolcampus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques; and
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that the Charter School and individualschools may use are available at http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/.

Nutrition Education

The Charter School will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Schools willprovide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- 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, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens,
 Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

The Charter School will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from MyPlate
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain trans fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast

- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

III. Physical Activity

Elementary school Charter Schools grades 1-8 will participate in a minimum of 200 minutes of physical education each ten days. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be providedthrough a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the Charter School is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). All schools in the Charter School will be encouraged to participate in *Let's Move!* Active Schools (www.letsmoveschools.org) in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason The Charter School will provide teachers and other school staff with a <u>list of ideas</u> for alternative ways to discipline students.

To the extent practicable, the Charter School will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The Charter School will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

 The Charter School will work with schools to ensure that inventories of physical activity supplies and equipment are known and, when necessary, will work with community partners to ensure sufficient quantities of equipment are available to encourage physical activity for as many students as possible.

Physical Education

The Charter School will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and willhelp students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the "Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education" subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The Charter School will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

In addition to the 200 minutes of physical education each ten days, the Charter School physical educationprogram will promote student physical fitness through the physical fitness test (PFT) for students in California grades five, seven and nine called the FITNESSGRAM.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in all grades (elementary) and the Charter School will require middle and high school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The Charter School will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type
 of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity

Recess (Elementary)

Charter School elementary schools will offer a recess period on all days during the school year. This policy may be waived on early dismissal or late arrival days. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play in accordance with our authorizer, LAUSD's, safety plan. In the event that the school or Charter School must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)

The Charter School recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The Charter School recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week.

These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

The Charter School will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through USDA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Before and After School Activities

The Charter School offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods. The Charter School will encourage students tobe physically active before and after school through the after school program operated by YPI, grades 6 through 8.

Active Transport

The Charter School will support active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking. The Charter School will encourage this behavior by engaging in activities including but not limited to:

- Designate safe or preferred routes to school
- Secure storage facilities for bicycles and helmets
- Instruction on walking/bicycling safety provided to students
- Use crosswalks on streets leading to schools

IV. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

The Charter School will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. The Charter School 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 developmentand strong educational outcomes.

Schools in the Charter School are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided byeither the school or the Charter School's curriculum experts.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the DWC/SWC.

Community Partnerships

The Charter School will develop relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, SNAP-Ed providers and coordinators, etc.) 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 Charter School will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefitsof 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 Charter School will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the Charter School'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.

Professional Learning

When feasible, the Charter School will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources forstaff 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 Charter School staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing Charter School reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

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13

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