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ECSD NEWS RELEASE

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ECSD Wants Input on Wellness Policy *New Google Form Will Be Available*

Pensacola, FL: The Escambia County School District is updating their Wellness Policy and are looking for input from District staff members, as well as members of our community.

“In the past, we requested input be sent in by email, but we have a new way this year, that we hope will be easier,” explained Jaleena Davis, ECSD Food Services Coordinator. “We are posting links on our web page to the current plan, so everyone can read what we have currently, and a link to a new Google document we hope will streamline the process for telling us your ideas.”

Go to their web page at: <http://www1.escambia.k12.fl.us/foodsrv/> Open the link in the left hand column titled, Wellness Policy. That will take you to a page for access to the Wellness Policy 2016-2017. Open the Policy to review the current policy and then use the link titled, Feedback on Policy to indicate which section you would like to make a suggest, ask a question or leave a comment about. Please submit a separate form for each section of the plan that interests you. Links will also be available from their Facebook page, Escambia County School District – School Food Services, www.facebook.com/escsd.foodservices/?fref=ts.

The need for a wellness policy comes from the knowledge that healthy children learn more easily and are therefore more likely to be successful in school. A health policy’s intent is to promote healthy choices, prevent childhood obesity and to combat the challenges children face if they have poor nutritional habits or not enough activity. With this in mind, Congress passed Public Law 108-265, which requires each school district participating in the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program to maintain a local wellness policy. This requirement started in the 2006-2007 school year.

“While the input is being gathered by our Food Service Department, we work with a variety of school district specialists so the policy can cover school food services, nutrition education, physical activity and other food-related activities, such as vending machines on campuses, classroom rewards, celebrations and fundraising,” said Davis. “We try our best to look at this program from a team perspective.”

“The school district also maintains a School Health and Wellness Advisory Council (SHWAC) as well as School Wellness Teams,” said Martha Hanna, ECSD’s Health Services Coordinator.

“Members of the Council cover a range of specialties and programs from health education, physical education, health services, nutrition services, counseling and psychological services, a healthy and safe school environment, as well as those familiar with health promotion for adult staff members and outreach to district families and the community,” Hanna explained.

If an individual would like to be involved at the District level, they should contact Hanna at 850-469-5456, or by email at mhanna@escambia.k12.fl.us.

If a member of our community wants to get involved on a School Wellness Team, they are asked to contact Casandra Waller, ECSD’s Specialist or Physical Education, Health, Wellness and Driver’s Education by calling her office 850-595-0185, or by email at cwaller@ecsd.me. “As always, support from our community is always appreciated.”

Media queries about Escambia County School District topics should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at 850-469-6219 or kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us. Like ECSD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsdfl

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