



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Central Decatur Schools is Seeking Parent and Community Involvement in Local School Wellness Policy Process

Central Decatur Schools wants to invite parents and the general public to take an active role in the health of their children by participating in the local school wellness policy process. A local school wellness policy is a written document that guides a school district's efforts to establish a school environment that promotes students' health, well-being, and ability to learn.

On July 29, 2016, USDA finalized regulations to create guidelines for school wellness policies. The final rule requires districts to begin revising local wellness policies during the 2016-2017 school year and fully comply with the final rule by June 30, 2017.

The expanded local wellness policy requirements include specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students, standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students, policies for food and beverage marketing, description of public involvement, public updates, policy leadership, and triennial assessments.

USDA requires schools to engage parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, Physical Education teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and community members in the annual development and assessment of local school wellness policies. Local communities will have flexibility in developing a policy that works best for them.

If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact Justine Buckingham.