

SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The legal basis for public education in the Town of Foxborough is vested in the will of the people as expressed in the Constitution of Massachusetts and state statutes pertaining to education.

Under the General Laws of Massachusetts,

"... Every town shall maintain... a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all students who may legally attend a public school therein."

The public educational system of Foxborough structurally is a department of the town operated under laws pertaining to education and under regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education. The area served by the Foxborough Public Schools is coterminous with the Town of Foxborough.

Established by law

LEGAL REFS.: Constitution of Massachusetts, Part II, Chapter V, Section II
M.G.L. 71:1

CROSS REF.: BB, Foxborough School Committee Legal Status

Historical Note:

Massachusetts has the oldest public school system in the nation. Dating back to 1647, the laws of the Massachusetts Bay Colony required towns to provide for a program of public education. The Foxborough Public Schools were established in 1778.

Prior to Foxborough being incorporated in 1778, families living here were still part of Wrentham, Walpole, Stoughton, and Stoughtonham and opportunities for education at the elementary school level were limited by time and distance.

Driven by a concern for their students and their need for an education, parents pooled their resources and in 1770 built a small school building on Chestnut Street nearly opposite Kersey Road and hired a teacher.

A second school was erected on Mechanic Street near Beach in 1771, also by private subscription and a third at Robbin's Corner in East Foxborough in 1772.

Once the town was incorporated in 1778, schools became a municipal responsibility and immediately the voters authorized a bold plan – a decade in its fulfillment – to eventually add elementary schools in each of the outlying districts as well as the center of town. Clearly, the intent was to educate the younger students as close to home as possible.

A private high school, English and Classical, opened in the Town House in 1858 and some seats were set aside for local students as part of the agreement with the town, but sentiment grew for the town to have its own high school and that came to fruition in 1865 as the community began its recovery from the Civil War. A large wing was added to the Town House for educational purposes and for the first time in local history, residents spoke the words "Foxborough High School". Our community has a history of fulfilling its commitment to the education of its young people and its return on investment has been extraordinary.

History written by Jack Authelet

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Foxborough Public Schools

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Foxborough School Committee has the dual responsibility for implementing statutory requirements pertaining to public education and local citizens' expectations for the education of the community's youth. It also has an obligation to determine and assess citizens' desires. When citizens elect Foxborough School Committee members to represent them in the conduct of public education, their representatives have the authority to exercise their best judgment in determining policies, making decisions, and approving procedures for carrying out the responsibility.

The Foxborough School Committee therefore affirms and declares its intent to:

1. Maintain two-way communication with citizens of the community. The public will be kept informed of the progress and problems of the school system, and citizens will be urged to bring their aspirations and feelings about their public schools to the attention of this body, which they have chosen to represent them in the management of public education.
2. Establish policies and make decisions on the basis of approved Foxborough Public Schools strategic plans and Foxborough Public Schools improvement plans. All decisions made by this School Committee will be made with priority given to the purposes set forth, most crucial of which is the optimal learning of all students enrolled in our schools.
3. Act as a truly representative body for members of the community in matters involving public education. The Foxborough School Committee recognizes that ultimate responsibility for public education rests with the state, but individual School Committees have been assigned specific authority through state law. The Foxborough School Committee will not relinquish any of this authority since it believes that decision-making control over the students' learning should be in the hands of local citizens as much as possible.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

NONDISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

The Foxborough Public Schools does not tolerate discrimination against students, parents, employees or the general public on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, homelessness, religion, age or immigration status. The Foxborough Public Schools is also committed to maintaining a school environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or pregnancy status, age or disability. In addition, the District provides equal access to all designated groups under Title 36. Consistent with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act, the District also does not discriminate against students on the basis on homelessness.

The Superintendent shall designate at least one administrator to serve as the compliance officer for the District's non-discrimination policies in education-related activities, including but not limited to responding to inquiries related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, the Age Act; M.G.L. c. 76, § 5; M.G.L. c. 151B and 151C; and 603 C.M.R. § 26.00. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the District may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The Foxborough Public Schools' policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public, and individuals with whom it does business; no person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in employment, admission to a public school of Foxborough or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, homelessness, disability or immigration status.

In addition to designating at least one administrator to handle inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies, the Superintendent shall adopt and publish one or more grievance procedures for addressing reports of discrimination, harassment and retaliation under the protected classes identified in this policy. If an individual interested in filing a complaint that they have been discriminated against because of their race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, homelessness, disability, or immigration status, their complaint should be filed in accordance with the District's grievance procedures for discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

The student handbooks and grievance procedures shall identify the name, office address and telephone number for the compliance officer(s) for the above-referenced statutes and this policy and be posted on the District's website.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

Policy adopted as revised: 1-3-23

LEGAL REFS.: Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a), (b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f) Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.34, 106.35; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; IDEA 2004; 20 U.S.C. 1400; 34 CFR 300.110; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C. Secs. 721, 722(g)(4); Mass. Const. amend. Art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c.76, s. 5; 603 CMR 2603 as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011; M.L.G. c.71, s370; 42 USC s. 2000c et seq.; 42 USC s. 2000d et seq.; 20 USC s. 1701 et seq.; M.G.L. c. 71, Sec. 84.

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1992 requires that no qualified individual with a disability shall, because the Foxborough School District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, and activities of the Foxborough Public Schools or be subject to discrimination. Nor shall the Foxborough Public Schools exclude or otherwise deny services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of a person with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association.

Definition: A "qualified individual with a disability" is an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modification to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by the Foxborough Public Schools.

Reasonable Modification: The Foxborough Public Schools shall make reasonable modification in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the Foxborough Public Schools can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

Communications: The Foxborough Public Schools shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. To this end, the Foxborough Public Schools shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy benefits of, a service, program, or activity conducted by the Foxborough Public Schools. In determining what type of auxiliary aid or service is necessary, the Foxborough Public Schools shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individuals with disabilities.

Auxiliary Aids and Services: "Auxiliary aids and services" includes (1) qualified interpreters, note takers, transcription services, written materials, assisted listening systems, and other effective methods for making aurally delivered materials available to individuals with hearing impairments; (2) qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, Braille materials, large print materials, or other effective methods for making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments; (3) acquisition or modification of equipment or devices and (4) other similar services and actions.

Limits of Required Modification: The Foxborough Public Schools is not required to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. Any decision that, in compliance with its responsibility to provide effective communication for individuals with disabilities, would fundamentally alter the service, program, or activity or unduly burden the Foxborough Public Schools shall be made by the Foxborough School Committee after considering all resources available for use in funding and operating the program, service, or activity. A written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion shall accompany the decision.

Notice: The Foxborough Public Schools shall make available to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons information regarding the provisions of Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its applicability to the services, programs, or activities of the Foxborough Public Schools. The information shall be made available in such a manner as the Foxborough School Committee and Superintendent find necessary to apprise such persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by the ADA.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Foxborough Public Schools, guided by its core values, is to engage students in a rich, diversified education, thereby empowering them to challenge themselves as they become productive, responsible citizens.

Vision

The Foxborough Public Schools, in collaboration with the community, will provide students with intellectual, artistic and character building educational experiences to inspire them to achieve.

CROSS REFS.: ADA, School District Goals and Objectives
 IA, Instructional Goals

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

DISTRICT-WIDE GOALS

The Foxborough Public Schools Goals are based on the four core values for Academic Excellence, Environment, Respect, and Communication and Collaboration.

Operating Principles

The Foxborough Public Schools Improvement Plan (DIP) and the School Improvement Plan (SIP) have reciprocal influence. Whereas the DIP is general in order to include the goals of each of the schools, the SIP is specific to the needs of the individual school. In return, the DIP shall provide structure and support in the form of a curriculum cycle, district-wide improvements, and the Foxborough Public Schools budget.

District-wide goals shall:

1. Guide and direct continuous improvement in the quality of education in each school in the Foxborough Public School system. Quality must be measured objectively based on state and federal requirements. The DIP outlines a specific direction under which each school council must operate in developing the SIP for its own school. Each plan must be based on at least three years of data.
2. Increase accountability and improvement in education. The Foxborough Public Schools will be accountable to the Department of Education as directed by No Child Left Behind.
3. Promote participation and active involvement with parents, staff, and the community.

Policy adopted: 7/15/76

Adopted as reviewed: 6/6/88

Policy adopted as revised: 3-24-08

LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING

A key element of effective management of a school system is the use of long range plans. Long range strategic planning is strongly supported in the research related to management of education.

The Foxborough School Committee and Superintendent share the responsibility for setting direction for Foxborough Public Schools. Long range strategic planning is the primary process for effecting long term direction.

The Foxborough School Department is committed to the concept of long range strategic planning. This planning is focused upon the major components of the school system as recommended by the Superintendent. This concept will be implemented in the school system as a result of the following process:

A long-range strategic plan will be developed to include a three-year period. The plan will be prepared by the Superintendent and recommended to the Foxborough School Committee for approval. The Superintendent will provide the School Committee with an annual update on the plan's progress. The Superintendent will insure appropriate staff and community participation in the development of the plan. The timeline for development, presentation, and approval of the plan is as follows:

- A. Six months prior to the expiration of the current three-year plan, the Superintendent will form a strategic planning work group consisting of administrators, staff, and community members.
- B. A draft will be submitted to the School Committee for review and final approval.

Policy adopted 2/3/86

Policy amended 2/2/87

Policy adopted as revised: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 5-16-16

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Alcoholic beverages will not be allowed on school premises or in buildings.

Policy adopted: 5/12/79

Policy reviewed: 9/06/88

Policy accepted as reviewed: 9/19/88

Policy adopted as revised: 3-24-08

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 138:14; 272 S.40A, as amended by St. 1978. C.469

SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Use of any tobacco products within the school buildings, school facilities, or on school grounds or school buses by any individual, including school personnel and students, is prohibited at all times.

A staff member determined to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

A student determined to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the student discipline code.

This policy shall be promulgated to all staff and students in appropriate handbook(s) and publications.

Signs shall be posted in all school buildings informing the general public of the Foxborough Public Schools policy and requirements of state law.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:37H

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

C.O.R.I. REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the policy of the Foxborough Public Schools to obtain all available Criminal Offender Record Information (C.O.R.I) from the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) of prospective employee(s), volunteer(s) or subcontractor(s) of the school department including any individual who regularly provides school related transportation to students, who may have direct and unmonitored contact with students, prior to hiring the employee(s), subcontractor(s), or to accepting any person as a volunteer. State law requires that school districts obtain C.O.R.I. data for employees of taxicab companies that have contracted with the schools to provide transportation to pupils.

The Superintendent, or their certified designees shall periodically, but not less than every three years, obtain all available Criminal Offender Record Information from the DCJIS on all employees, individuals who regularly provide school related transportation to students, including taxicab company employees, and volunteers who may have direct and unmonitored contact with students, during their term of employment or volunteer service.

The Superintendent, or their certified designees may also have access to Criminal Offender Record Information for any subcontractor or laborer who performs work on school grounds, and who may have direct and unmonitored contact with students, and shall notify them of this requirement and comply with the appropriate provisions of this policy.

Pursuant to a Department of Education C.O.R.I. Law Advisory dated February 17, 2003, “‘Direct and unmonitored contact with students’ means contact with a child when no other C.O.R.I. cleared employee of the school or district is present. A person having only the potential for incidental unsupervised contact with students in commonly used areas of the school grounds, such as hallways, shall not be considered to have the potential for direct and unmonitored contact with students. These excluded areas do not include bathrooms and other isolated areas (not commonly utilized and separated by sight or sound from other staff) that are accessible to students.”

In accordance with state law, all current and prospective employees, subcontractors, volunteers, and persons regularly providing school related transportation to students of the school district shall sign a request/acknowledgement form authorizing receipt by the Foxborough Public Schools of all available C.O.R.I. data from the DCJIS. In the event that a current employee has questions concerning the signing of the request/acknowledgement form, he/she may meet with the Superintendent or designee; however, failure to sign the C.O.R.I. request form may result in a referral to local counsel for appropriate action. Completed request/acknowledgement forms must be kept in secure files. The Superintendent, or designee certified to obtain information under this policy, shall prohibit the dissemination of school information for any purpose other than to further the protection of school students.

C.O.R.I. is not subject to the public records law and must be kept in a secure location, separate from personnel files and may be retained for not more than three years. C.O.R.I. may be shared with the individual to whom it pertains, upon his or her request, and in the event of an inaccurate report the individual should contact the DCJIS.

Access to C.O.R.I material must be restricted to those individuals certified to receive such information. In the case of prospective employees or volunteers, C.O.R.I material should be obtained only where the Superintendent has determined that the applicant is qualified and may forthwith be recommended for employment or volunteer duties.

The hiring authority, subject to applicable law, reserves the exclusive right concerning any employment decision made pursuant to Chapter 385 of the Acts of 2002. The employer may consider the following factors when reviewing C.O.R.I.: the type and nature of the offense; the date of the offense and whether the individual has been subsequently arrested, as well as any other factors the employer deems relevant. Unless otherwise provided by law, a criminal record will not automatically disqualify an applicant. Rather, determinations of suitability based on C.O.R.I. checks will be made consistent with this policy and any applicable law or regulations.

If a criminal record is received from the DCJIS, the Superintendent will closely compare the record provided by DCJIS with the information on the C.O.R.I. request/acknowledgement form and any other identifying information provided by the applicant, to ensure the record relates to the applicant.

If the Foxborough Public Schools is inclined to make an adverse decision based on the results of the C.O.R.I. check, the applicant will be notified immediately. The applicant shall be provided with a copy of the criminal record, the Foxborough Public Schools C.O.R.I. policy, the DCJIS *Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record*, advised of the part(s) of the record that make the individual unsuitable for the position or license, and given an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the C.O.R.I. record.

The Superintendent shall ensure that on the application for employment there shall be a statement that as a condition of employment or volunteer service the school district is required by law to obtain Criminal Offender Record Information for any employee, individual who regularly provides school related transportation, or volunteer who may have direct and unmonitored contact with students. Current employees, persons regularly providing school related transportation, subcontractors, and volunteers shall also be informed in writing by the Superintendent prior to the periodic obtaining of their Criminal Offender Record Information.

The Superintendent shall amend employment applications to include questions concerning criminal records which the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination has determined may be legally asked of prospective employees. Any employment application which seeks information concerning prior arrests or convictions of the applicant shall include the following statement: "An applicant for employment with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' with respect to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests, criminal court appearances or convictions. An applicant for employment with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests or criminal court appearances. In addition, any applicant for employment may answer 'no record' with respect to any inquiry relative to prior arrests, court appearances and adjudications in all cases of delinquency or as a child in need of service which did not result in a complaint transferred to the superior court for criminal prosecution."

Records sealed pursuant to law shall not operate to disqualify a person in any examination, appointment or application for public service on behalf of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof.

The Superintendent shall revise contracts with special education schools and other providers to require a signed statement that the provider has met all the legal requirements of the state where it is located relative to criminal background checks for employees and others having direct and unmonitored contact with students.

As soon as possible after the Foxborough Public Schools obtains the certification from the DCJIS to receive C.O.R.I. data, the Superintendent shall obtain such data for any person then providing volunteer service, as a condition of continued service.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.71:38R, 151B, 276, §.100A, St.2002, c.385
MCAD Regulations and D.O.E. Advisory on C.O.R.I. Law (Feb 17, 2003)
803 CMR 3.05 (Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004)

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

C.O.R.I. REQUIREMENTS

Applicants challenging the accuracy of the policy shall be provided a copy of the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) *Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record*. If the CORI record provided does not exactly match the identification information provided by the applicant, the Superintendent will make a determination based on a comparison of the CORI record and documents provided by the applicant. The Superintendent may contact the DCJIS and request a detailed search consistent with DCJIS policy.

If the Superintendent reasonably believes the record belongs to the applicant and is accurate, based on the information as provided in Foxborough Public Schools policy, then the determination of suitability for the position or license will be made. Unless otherwise provided by law, factors considered in determining suitability may include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) Relevance of the crime to the position sought;
- (b) The nature of the work to be performed;
- (c) Time since the conviction;
- (d) Age of the candidate at the time of the offense;
- (e) Seriousness and specific circumstances of the offense;
- (f) The number of offenses;
- (g) Whether the applicant has pending charges;
- (h) Any relevant evidence of rehabilitation or lack thereof;
- (i) Any other relevant information, including information submitted by the candidate or requested by the hiring authority

The Superintendent will notify the applicant of the decision and the basis of the decision in a timely manner.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROCESS IN CORRECTING A CRIMINAL RECORD

If you have undergone a background check by an agency that has received a criminal record from the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS), you may ask the agency to provide you with a copy of the criminal record. You may also request a copy of your adult criminal record from the Department of Criminal Justice Information Systems, 200 Arlington Street, Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150 by calling (617) 660-4640 or go to www.mass.gov/chsb/cori/cori_forms.html#pers.

The DCJIS charges \$25.00 fee to provide an individual with a copy of his/her criminal record. You may complete an affidavit of indigency and request that the DCJIS waive the fee.

Upon receipt, review the record. If you need assistance in interpreting the entries or dispositions, please review the disposition code and "how to read a BOP" on the DCJIS website <https://icori.chs.state.ma.us/icori> The DCJIS does not offer "walk-in" service but you may call our Legal Division at (617) 660-4760 for assistance or the CARI Unit of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation at (617) 727-5300.

If you believe that a case is opened on your record that should be marked closed, you may contact the Office of the Commissioner of Probation CARI Unit at (617) 727-5300 for assistance, or you may go to the Probation Department at the court where the charges were brought and request that the case(s) be updated.

If you believe that a disposition is incorrect, contact the Chief Probation Officer at the court where the charges were brought or the CARI Unit at the Office of the Commissioner of Probation and report that the court incorrectly entered a disposition on your criminal record.

If you believe that someone has stolen or improperly used your identity and were arraigned on criminal charges under your name, you may contact the Office of the Commissioner of Probation CARI Unit or the Chief Probation Officer in the court where the charges were brought. For a listing of courthouses and telephone numbers please see www.mass.gov/chsb/cori/cori_codes_co

In some situations of identity theft, you may need to contact the DCJIS to arrange to have a fingerprint analysis conducted.

If there is a warrant currently outstanding against you, you need to appear at the court and ask that the warrant be recalled. You cannot do this over the telephone.

If you believe that an employer, volunteer agency, housing agency or municipality has been provided with a criminal record that does not pertain to you, the agency should contact the DCJIS for assistance at (617) 660-4640.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

Policy adopted as revised: 2-25-13

C.O.R.I. REQUIREMENTS

Employers may ask the following series of questions:

1. Have you been convicted of a felony? Yes or no?
2. Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past five years (other than a first conviction for any of the following misdemeanors: drunkenness, simple assault, speeding, minor traffic violations, affray or disturbance of the peace)? Yes or no?
3. Have you completed a period of incarceration within the past five years for any misdemeanor (other than a first conviction for any of the following misdemeanors: drunkenness, simple assault, speeding, minor traffic violations, affray or disturbance of the peace)? Yes or no?
4. If the answer to question number 3 above is “yes” please state whether you were convicted more than five years ago for any offense (other than a first conviction for any of the following misdemeanors: drunkenness, simple assault, speeding, minor traffic violations, affray or disturbance of the peace)? Yes or no?

Some employers are authorized to request, receive, view and/or hold criminal offender record information pursuant to state or federal law.

Any inquiry into the criminal record of an applicant must also contain language pursuant to M.G.L. c. 276, § 100A.

It is unlawful for an employer to make any inquiry of an applicant or employee regarding:

1. An arrest, detention or disposition regarding any violation of law in which no conviction resulted.
2. First convictions for the misdemeanors of drunkenness, simple assault, speeding, minor traffic violations, affrays or disturbance of the peace. For the purposes of 804 CMR 3.02 minor traffic violations include any moving traffic violation other than reckless driving, driving to endanger and motor vehicle homicide.
3. Any conviction of a misdemeanor where the date of the conviction or the completion of any period of incarceration resulting there from, which ever date is later, occurred five or more years prior to the date of such inquiry, unless such person has been convicted of any offense within five years immediately preceding the date of the inquiry.

No person shall be held under any provision of any law to be guilty of perjury or of otherwise giving false statement by reason of his failure to recite or acknowledge such information as he has a right to withhold by 804 CMR 3.02.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08

WELLNESS

It is the policy of the Foxborough Public School District to promote actions that create a healthy and safe environment for all students, faculty, and staff. It is our goal to promote and protect our students' physical, emotional, and social well-being through a coordinated school wellness program. This includes providing a healthy environment, nutritious school meals, health and physical education, opportunities for physical activity, school nurse services, and mental health services.

It is the intent of this policy to enable students to become independent and self-directed learners by taking initiative to meet their own health, physical, and nutritional needs as developmentally appropriate. Specific actions and decisions will take into account the health needs and well-being of all children without discrimination or isolation of any child. Our goal is to provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity.

The Foxborough Public Schools' Wellness Task Force will meet annually to review, monitor, and evaluate the goals of this policy.

I. Nutrition and Wellness

The Foxborough Public School District aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Our goal is to provide nutrition education at all levels throughout our district by using the following strategies:

- Offer a comprehensive, standards-based health curriculum designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health at all levels;
- Provide instruction for students in nutrition that teaches the skills they need to develop and maintain healthy eating habits;
- Through the nutrition education program, establish the link between food and beverage intake and physical activity as key components to healthy weight management;
- Promote healthy eating decisions such as: fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low fat and fat free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- Offer healthy meals and snacks that promote good health and provide students with the appropriate daily nutrition that is consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
- Support healthy lifestyles at home through parent education activities;
- Provide nutrition education professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff such as Food Service.

II. Guidelines for Foods and Beverages on School Campuses

All food made available during the school day will comply with current *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the *Massachusetts A La Carte Food and Beverage to Promote a Healthier School Environment* by Action for Healthy Kids. This includes vending machines, concessions, a la carte, school stores, school-sponsored fundraisers, and other venues under the control of the school department.

The School Food Service Child Nutrition Program will comply with federal, state, and local requirements and will be accessible to all children. Foods made available during the school day will promote the consumption of nutrient dense foods and beverages (i.e. milk, meat/poultry, fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains) on a daily basis.

School menus will be analyzed using USDA approved software. Nutrition information will be available for all foods offered through the Child Nutrition Program. Age appropriate daily requirements and portion size information will be available in all programs.

The school district will provide information and outreach materials about other Federal Nutrition Standards programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to students and parents through the school/district website.

The school district encourages all students to participate in school meals program, i.e. the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs where offered.

All foods made available on campus by the food services department will adhere to food safety and security guidelines. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines will be implemented to prevent food illness in schools.

Food safety issues related to food allergy are adhered to for all foods served in school. Refer to Foxborough Public Schools' Life Threatening Allergy Policy JLCE for more information.

Food services will strive to offer only those snack items included on the Department of Education's A List.

Birthday celebrations must be "food free" throughout the district. Classroom snacks and food provided for non-birthday related celebrations feature healthy choices. Schools will not use food as rewards. Exceptions to this policy may only be made when behavior rewards or discipline are part of a student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

It is recommended that non-school sponsored events including fundraisers and concessions held on school grounds and/or to benefit schools in the Foxboro school district will be encouraged to include healthy choices and promote healthy living.

The school district encourages parents, teachers, school administrators, students, food service professionals, and community members to serve as role models in practicing healthy eating and being physically active, both in school and at home.

III. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Students in grades K-10, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative settings, will participate in physical education for the entire school year. Students in grades 11 and 12 are offered physical education electives; the minimum PE requirement is one semester per year. All physical education classes will be taught by a certified physical education teacher.

Currently, students are receiving the following number of hours of organized physical education per year:

- K-4: 33 hours/year
- Gr. 5-8: 34 hours/year
- Gr. 9-10: 71 hours/year
- Gr. 11-12: 35 hours/year

The physical education program includes instruction of individual skills and fitness activities to encourage life-long physical activity. Students will spend well over fifty percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

All students through grade six will have 15-20 minutes of supervised recess daily. Whenever possible, all of the students' recess time is spent outdoors.

All schools will offer a range of extracurricular physical activity programs and activities that meet the needs of diverse learners, such as co-curricular clubs, interscholastic athletic programs and Intramural programs.

Schools will not use physical activity or the withholding of recess or other physical activity as a means of punishment or as a regular form of discipline. Exceptions to this policy may only be made when behavior rewards or discipline are part of a student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

School spaces and facilities should be available to students, staff, and community members during and after the school day, on weekends and during school vacations. These spaces and facilities also should be available to community agencies and organizations offering physical activity and nutrition programs. School policies concerning safety will apply at all times. See Policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities.

IV. Other School-Based Activities

The school district will ensure adequate time for students to enjoy eating healthy foods in a collegial environment.

When possible, schools will schedule recess for elementary students before lunch so that children will come to lunch less distracted and ready to eat.

The Foxborough Public School District values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support efforts by the staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The district will make every effort to inform and educate staff, and to encourage staff health and wellness as related to healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle.

CROSS REFS.: IHAE, Physical Education
IHAM, Health and Wellness Education
IHAMA, Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco

LEGAL REF.: MGL 7:23B
An Act Relative to School Nutrition (H4459)
Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004

Policy adopted: 6-19-06
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Policy adopted as revised: 4-4-11
Policy adopted as revised: 6-4-12
Policy adopted as revised: 8-27-18

COMMITMENT TO ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Foxborough School Committee accepts ultimate responsibility for all facets of school operations. Because it is accountable to residents of the Foxborough Public Schools, the Foxborough School Committee will maintain a program of accountability consisting of the following elements:

- Clear statements of expectations and purpose as these relate to operations, programs, departments, and positions.
- Provisions for the staff, resources, and support necessary to achieve stated expectations and purposes, subject to financial support by residents of the Foxborough Public Schools.
- Evaluation of operations and instructional and staff development programs to determine how well expectations and purposes are being met.
- Specific performance objectives to enable individuals to direct their own efforts to the goals and objectives of the Foxborough Public Schools.
- Evaluation of the efforts of employees in line with stated objectives, with the first purpose of evaluation being to help each individual make a maximum contribution to the goals of the Foxborough Public Schools.

Every effort will be made by the Foxborough School Committee, Superintendent, and staff to fulfill the responsibilities inherent in the concept of accountability.

Policy adopted: 3-24-08