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HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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May 18, 2026

Homer Community Schools Stakeholders,

Our school takes pride in supporting the needs of the whole child, and to ensure that all children are safe, supported, engaged, and challenged each school day. Research indicates that initiatives focused on improving aspects of students' well-being in schools — such as addressing childhood obesity, preventing bullying, supporting students mental health, and restricting use of exclusionary discipline — have been found to be successful in improving student success and academic excellence. We have assessed our wellness policy as part of the USDA requirements. Below are the results of our assessment.

Step #1: Wellness Policy Assessment Summary

Our wellness policy provides a strong foundation for supporting student health and wellness across the district. The district maintains practices and procedures that support student well-being through nutrition education, physical activity opportunities, and school-wide wellness initiatives.

As part of our continuous improvement efforts, areas identified for future growth include:

- Increasing family awareness and consistency with SMART Snack expectations for classroom celebrations and snacks
- Continuing to strengthen opportunities for movement and wellness activities throughout the school day
- Maintaining alignment and consistency of wellness practices across all grade levels

Step #2: Progress Toward Wellness Goals

Nutrition Education and Promotion (Met Across K–12)

Students across all grade levels received nutrition education and wellness messaging through classroom instruction, school meals, and school-wide wellness practices. School breakfast and lunch programs follow USDA nutrition standards and reinforce healthy eating habits and informed food choices.

Physical Activity (Met Across K–12)

Students in all grade levels were provided regular opportunities for physical activity through physical education classes and movement opportunities throughout the school day. Physical activity supports student health, engagement, and development of lifelong wellness habits.

Other School Wellness Activities (Met Across K–12)

The district supported student wellness through a comprehensive approach that included counseling services, social-emotional supports, and enrichment opportunities such as music, art, library, technology, and other school activities designed to support the whole child.

Compliance Summary

The district remains compliant with federal meal standards, Smart Snack requirements, and food and beverage marketing guidelines. Continued efforts will focus on increasing awareness and consistency surrounding healthy food expectations and wellness practices.

Steps to Address Future Improvements

To continue strengthening our wellness efforts, Homer Community Schools will:

- Increase communication and family engagement regarding healthy snack expectations
- Continue supporting opportunities for movement and student wellness throughout the school day
- Maintain district-wide wellness practices that support the physical, social, emotional, and academic needs of students

Public Updates

The public was involved in the development, implementation, review, and update of our Local Wellness Policy through a representative wellness committee that included parents, community members, school staff, and students. This collaborative process ensured multiple perspectives were represented and opportunities for feedback were provided.

This update will be shared publicly through district communication channels, including our website and school communications, to ensure transparency and accessibility.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lefdal at joyleldal@homerknights.org.

Respectfully,
Culture & Environment/Wellness Committee