

Committee Members

John Gerrity - Director of Food & Nutrition Services

Dr. Melissa Jenkins – Chief Academic Officer

Carli Rocha-Reaes -Director of School Counseling & Parent Partnerships

Lizette Earley – Director of Nursing

Beth Furnari – Information Technology Magnet HS Principal

Eric Graf – Central High School Principal

Luisa Wolf – Johnson School Principal

Dyrene Newton – Hallen School Principal

Dr. Charmaine Worthy – Tisdale School Principal

James Denton – Central High School Assistant Principal; Athletics

Melinda Hamilton, RD, CDN – School Lunch Supervisor

Dawn Postolowski – Food & Nutrition Services Computer and Claims Specialist

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 required that each local education agency (LEA) or school district participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program develop a local wellness policy that promotes the health of students and addresses the growing problem of childhood obesity. As per the legislation, each school district's local wellness policy, at a minimum, must address/establish:

- Goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness
- Nutrition guidelines for all foods available on each school campus during the school day with the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity
- Implementation measurement, including designation of one or more persons within the local education agency or school, charged with the operational responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the local wellness policy
- Involvement of parents, students and representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and the public in the development of the school wellness policy

The Student Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy requires an annual progress report to the Superintendent and the Board, evaluating the implementation of the policy and the regulations, as well as recommendations for changes or revisions. The Wellness Committee is proud of its accomplishments in the 2021-2022 school year. A summary of these accomplishments is below.

District Commitment to Nutrition and Wellness

USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Bridgeport Public Schools recognizes the multiple health and academic benefits that eating nutritious meals provides students and that school meals play a critical role in meeting students' nutritional needs. In the 2021-2022 School Year, Bridgeport Public Schools continue to serve free meals to all students via the Community Eligibility Program (CEP).

USDA's Community Eligibility Provision provides a nutritious breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost to students, families, or the Board. This federally funded program provides eligible schools with a higher reimbursement rate, eliminates stigma, increases participation, eliminates meal debt, and streamlines the process for parents and staff, enabling all students in these schools to receive school meals without having to complete an annual meal benefit application.

CACFP At Risk Supper Program

Under criteria established by USDA, “at risk” after school care centers (Lighthouse, etc.) are eligible to provide a free afterschool supper meal which meets all USDA meal pattern and nutritional standards. An “at risk” after school center is defined by the USDA as: an after-school care center that provides organized, regularly scheduled activities in a structured and supervised environment, including education or enrichment activities and has 50% or more of its students eligible for free or reduced priced meals.

The following schools serve supper as a part of their after school and Lighthouse programs. The CACFP At Risk Supper Program continues to expand to programs throughout Bridgeport Public Schools and with its success through student participation, it will continue to be offered in the 2022-2023 school year at no cost to students, families, the Food and Nutrition Services Department or the Board of Education. The CACFP At Risk Supper program will continue to operate and expand throughout the district as At-Risk programs are identified and expanded.

Schools Participating in CACFP At Risk Supper Program for the 2021-2022 School Year:		
Barnum School	Beardsley School	Black Rock School
Blackham School	Bryant School	Cesar Batalla School
Classical Studies Academy	Columbus School	Cross School
Curiale School	Dunbar School	Edison School
Geraldine Claytor Magnet Academy	Hall School	Hallen School
Harding High School	Hooker School	Discovery Magnet Academy
Johnson School	Luis Munoz Marin School	Madison School
Multicultural Magnet School	Park City Magnet School	Read School
Roosevelt School	Tisdale School	Winthrop School

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant:

The following sites were awarded grants to participate in USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2021-2022 school year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA)FFVP provides all children in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables. It is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables. The FFVP also encourages community partnerships to support these schools when providing fruit and vegetables to children during the school day.

School:	21-22 FFVP Grant Award:
Barnum School	\$40,257
Beardsley School	\$19,656
Black Rock School	\$31,752
Blackham School	\$67,347
Bridgeport Learning Center @ Sheridan	\$4,788
Bryant School	\$20,979
Cesar Batalla School	\$71,820
Classical Studies Academy	\$29,043
Columbus School	\$36,099
Edison	\$11,781
Geraldine Claytor Magnet Academy	\$25,830
Geraldine Johnson School	\$49,077
Hall School	\$11,403
Hallen School	\$18,900
High Horizons Magnet School	\$28,728
James J. Curiale School	\$35,217
Jettie S. Tisdale School	\$38,430
John Winthrop School	\$40,950
Luis Munoz Marin School	\$52,983
Madison School	\$27,972
Multicultural Magnet School	\$29,421
Park City Magnet School	\$32,823
Paul Lawrence Dunbar School	\$19,530
Read School	\$50,022
Roosevelt School	\$34,650
Thomas Hooker School	\$20,979
Waltersville School	\$32,256
Wilbur Cross School	\$16,569
Total Grant Allocation:	\$899,262

BPS Food and Nutrition Department will continue to take advantage of this grant and will reapply for all eligible sites for the 2022-2023 school year.

Healthy Food Certification

Bridgeport Public Schools voluntarily participates in Healthy Food Certification with the State Department of Child Nutrition. Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Nutrition Standards (CNS) exceeds the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 'Smart Snacks' Nutrition Standards.

By complying with Healthy Food Certification, our district commits that all competitive foods sold during the school day meet the CNS focus on moderating calories, limiting fat, saturated fat, sodium, and sugars. The CNS also focuses on moderating portion sizes, eliminating trans-fat and increasing consumption of nutrient-rich foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, lean meats, and legumes.

Connecticut Nutrition Standards are based on current nutrition science and national health recommendations from the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and national health organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine.

Summer Feeding

Throughout the months of June, July, and August of 2021, 26 schools and twenty-seven community feeding sites provided a free breakfast and lunch program through the Summer Food Service Program to all children ages eighteen and under. Over the course of thirty-nine service days, students, and children ages eighteen and under within the community were served over 181,415 breakfasts and lunches at no charge.

As summer is a time of food insecurity for many the Food and Nutrition Department worked closely with the Office of the Superintendent to ensure that all BPS families were aware of the availability of the Summer Feeding Program. Through USDA waivers BPS was able to offer 'Grab and Go' meal bags for parent / guardian pickup, which allowed for children eighteen and under to have access to nutritious meals throughout the Summer.

Resources for parents and Teachers

Wellness Committee Webpage [Wellness Policy / Wellness Policy \(bridgeportedu.net\)](https://www.bridgeportedu.net/wellness-policy/)

Wellness Committee Initiatives for 2022-2023

Increase and strengthen community partnerships

Develop a three-year strategic plan that includes the identified Opportunities for Improvement from the LSWP Triennial Assessment Summary.