



**INFINITE
POTENTIAL**

INFINITE POTENTIAL LEARNING ACADEMY LOCAL SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

2026-2027 School Year

Revised June 2026 | Adoption/Approval Date: June 23, 2026

“Lead with love. Empower through learning. Inspire by nurturing.”

This policy establishes Infinite Potential Learning Academy’s school-wide commitments for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity, food and beverage standards, family engagement, and ongoing wellness-policy accountability.

1900 12th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33705 • www.iplakids.org • info@iplakids.org

POLICY OVERVIEW

Infinite Potential Learning Academy (IPLA) is a private nonprofit K-5 school serving students in South St. Petersburg. IPLA recognizes that nutritious food, regular physical activity, health knowledge, and supportive school environments help students learn, grow, and thrive.

IPLA will maintain a school environment that promotes student wellness, supports healthy eating and physical activity, and administers its school nutrition programs in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to IPLA's K-5 school campus and school day, including the cafeteria, classrooms, school store/snack shack operations, fundraising, food and beverage marketing, and school-sponsored activities. Preschool meal service will continue to follow applicable CACFP, licensing, and program requirements; IPLA may extend wellness practices to preschool when appropriate.

School	Infinite Potential Learning Academy (IPLA)
Address	1900 12th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Policy leader	Head of School or written designee, with operational support from the School Director and Food Service Director
Policy contact	info@iplakids.org 727-954-4934
Review cycle	Internal annual review; formal triennial assessment at least once every three years

1. Local School Wellness Policy Leadership

IPLA designates the Head of School, or a written designee, as the official responsible for overall implementation, oversight, and compliance with this Local School Wellness Policy. The School Director and Food Service Director will support policy implementation, documentation, and nutrition-program alignment.

Healthy School Team

IPLA will maintain an ongoing Healthy School Team that meets at least twice each school year and additionally as needed. The team will support development, implementation, review, and continuous improvement of this policy.

- The Healthy School Team will include, when available and appropriate: a school leader, Food Service Director or school food authority representative, teacher representative, physical education or movement lead, parent/guardian, student representative, health/safety professional or community partner, and a member of the public or IPLA governing body.
- The Healthy School Team will review applicable nutrition standards, wellness goals, meal-service practices, food fundraisers, school celebrations, student and family feedback, and the documentation needed for annual review and triennial assessment.
- The Healthy School Team will maintain a current school-year calendar of any exempted competitive-food fundraisers and will report compliance issues to the Head of School or designee.

Stakeholder Participation

IPLA will provide parents, students, school food service representatives, teachers, physical education or movement staff, health professionals, the IPLA governing body, school administrators, and the general public a meaningful opportunity to participate in policy development, implementation, and periodic review. IPLA may use meetings, surveys, newsletter notices, website postings, classroom feedback, and direct invitations to obtain input.

2. Nutrition Promotion

IPLA will create a food environment that supports nutritious choices and encourages participation in the school meal programs. Nutrition messages will be clear, age-appropriate, culturally responsive, and consistent across the cafeteria, classrooms, school communications, and school-sponsored events.

Focus area	IPLA commitment	How IPLA will document it
Cafeteria promotion	Use at least two Smarter Lunchrooms or comparable evidence-based strategies each school year, such as attractive fruit placement, student-friendly menu naming, clear menu signage, or taste-test opportunities.	Food Service Director keeps a checklist, photos, menus, or meeting notes.
Student voice	Seek student feedback on school meals and healthy food choices at least annually through age-appropriate surveys, classroom discussions, taste tests, or student-team input.	Survey results, meeting notes, or taste-test feedback.
Family messages	Share wellness or nutrition information with families at least twice each school year through school communications.	Newsletter, email, website, social-media post, or handout.
Local and garden learning	When practical, available, safe, and cost-effective, feature local foods and/or school-garden learning opportunities in nutrition education or meal-program promotion.	Activity records, photos, menus, purchase or garden logs when applicable.

3. Nutrition Education

IPLA will provide developmentally appropriate nutrition education that helps students build practical skills and knowledge related to healthy eating, food safety, hydration, balanced meals, food labels, cultural food traditions, and food systems.

- Nutrition education will be integrated, when appropriate, into health, physical education, science, math, literacy, garden activities, art, entrepreneurship, and other classroom experiences.
- Each K-5 grade level will provide at least one age-appropriate nutrition learning experience during each school year. IPLA may use classroom lessons, school-garden activities, food demonstrations, taste tests, community partners, or cafeteria learning activities.
- IPLA will support food literacy through hands-on learning whenever feasible, including school-garden experiences and community partners. Food grown in a school garden may be used for instruction or meal-program promotion only when food-safety procedures are met.
- Staff delivering nutrition education will have access to appropriate training, accurate resources, and program guidance.

4. Physical Activity

IPLA will provide regular, developmentally appropriate opportunities for physical activity so students can build the skills, knowledge, confidence, and habits that support lifelong health.

- K-5 students will have a daily supervised recess opportunity, except when weather, safety, instructional needs, or other documented conditions make it impractical.
- IPLA will schedule regular physical education and structured movement opportunities consistent with the school's academic program and applicable standards.
- Teachers are encouraged to use brief classroom movement breaks when appropriate to support attention, learning, and student well-being.
- Physical activity will not be withheld as a behavior-management consequence, and students will not be required to engage in physical activity as punishment.
- IPLA will provide safe space, equipment, and supervision for physical activity to the extent reasonably available.

5. Other School-Based Wellness Activities

Whole-School Wellness

- IPLA will consider the wellness goals in planning school events, field trips, after-school programming, student celebrations, school stores/snack shacks, and school fundraising activities.

- IPLA will maintain drug-, alcohol-, tobacco-, and nicotine-free school environments in accordance with its existing health and safety policies.
- IPLA will encourage waste reduction through practical reuse, recycling, and food-waste-reduction practices when feasible.
- When facilities, supervision, insurance, and school safety procedures permit, IPLA may make approved outdoor/ play spaces available for school-community wellness activities outside the instructional day.

Meal Environment

- Students will receive a reasonable and adequate amount of time to eat, including at least 20 minutes after receiving a lunch meal whenever practicable within the approved school schedule.
- Free potable water will be available to students during meal service. Handwashing opportunities will be available before meal service as operationally feasible.
- IPLA will maintain an eating environment that is clean, safe, respectful, and supportive of students with dietary needs.

Employee Wellness and Health Support

- IPLA will share accessible, voluntary, and low-cost or no cost wellness resources with staff when available.
- IPLA will support student access to health information and community referrals as appropriate. Health services, screenings, and health records will be managed by qualified personnel and with parent/guardian notice or consent when required.

Behavior Management

- Food will not be used as a regular reward for academic performance, attendance, or behavior. Limited food-related educational activities that reinforce positive nutrition messages, such as a cooking demonstration or farm/garden experience, are permitted.
- Students will not be denied a reimbursable meal, meal period, recess, or physical activity as a disciplinary consequence.

6. Foods and Beverages Available During the School Day

School Meals

IPLA will operate its school meal programs in accordance with the current USDA meal-pattern requirements, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) requirements, and all applicable program guidance. IPLA will make reimbursable meals available to eligible students without discrimination. When IPLA operates under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), reimbursable meals will be available to enrolled students at no charge.

- Reimbursable meals will meet the current nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and other approved programs, including phased requirements related to whole grains, added sugars, sodium, milk, and procurement when applicable.
- Meals will offer a variety of nutrient-dense foods and will reasonably accommodate special dietary needs in accordance with current program requirements and approved medical documentation procedures.
- IPLA will use local foods, culturally relevant foods, and seasonal selections when they are available, safe, practical, and cost-effective.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

All foods and beverages sold to students outside of reimbursable school meals during the school day are competitive foods and must meet the then-current USDA Smart Snacks in School standards and applicable Florida requirements. The current standards are incorporated into this policy by reference.

- For this policy, “school campus” means all property under IPLA’s jurisdiction that is accessible to students during the school day. “School day” means the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of IPLA’s official school day.
- Competitive food sales include, as applicable, a la carte offerings, vending machines, school stores, snack shacks, snack bars, and in-school fundraisers operating during the school day.

- IPLA will use current USDA Smart Snacks guidance or the USDA Smart Snacks Product Calculator, when applicable, to verify compliant products before sale.
- Unless sold by IPLA's school food service program, ready-to-eat combination foods containing a meat or meat alternate and a grain product will not be sold to students during the school day when prohibited by federal or Florida requirements.
- Energy drinks and other beverages or foods that do not meet current elementary-school Smart Snacks standards will not be sold to students during the school day.

Foods and Beverages Provided but Not Sold

IPLA will support healthy choices for foods and beverages offered to students during the school day but not sold, including classroom celebrations, incentives, parent-provided foods, and other school-sponsored activities.

- Nonfood celebrations and rewards are encouraged. When food is served during the school day, fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat dairy, water, and other Smart Snacks-compliant options are encouraged.
- Classroom celebrations held during the school day will be limited to no more than one per quarter per class, should occur after the lunch meal period when practical, and must comply with Smart Snacks standards. Food safety and allergen procedures remain in effect.
- All foods brought to campus for student consumption must have ingredient and allergen information available and must comply with IPLA's food safety and student health procedures.
- Sugar-sweetened beverages and energy drinks will not be provided to K-5 students during the school day.

Fundraising

- IPLA will encourage nonfood fundraisers and fundraisers that promote healthy choices.
- Food and beverage fundraisers conducted during the school day must comply with Smart Snacks standards unless an approved state-authorized exemption applies.
- As an elementary-school campus, IPLA may conduct no more than five (5) school days of exempted competitive-food fundraisers per school year, subject to current Florida requirements. The Healthy School Team will maintain an approved fundraiser calendar and written documentation for each exempted day.
- No fundraiser that includes the sale of food or beverages will occur until at least 30 minutes after the conclusion of the last designated meal service period.

Food and Beverage Marketing

IPLA will allow marketing and advertising on the school campus during the school day only for foods and beverages that meet current Smart Snacks in School standards.

- This requirement applies to new marketing arrangements, including signage, school-store displays, vending-machine covers, educational materials, prizes, coupons, fundraising materials, and other branded promotional items under IPLA's control.
- IPLA will promote water, healthy food choices, school meals, physical activity, garden learning, and other healthful behaviors in its wellness-related communications.

7. Implementation, Assessment, and Public Notification

Annual Review and Triennial Assessment

IPLA will conduct an internal review of this policy at least annually. At least once every three years, IPLA will conduct and make available to the public a triennial assessment of policy implementation.

- The triennial assessment will evaluate: (1) the extent to which IPLA is in compliance with this policy; (2) how this policy compares with model local school wellness policies; and (3) IPLA's progress in attaining the policy's goals.
- IPLA will make appropriate modifications to this policy based on assessment findings, local priorities, community input, operational needs, and new federal or state guidance.

Public Availability and Notice

- IPLA will make this policy, any updates, and the most recent triennial assessment available to the public in an accessible and understandable manner, including through the school website or another school-controlled public communication channel.
- IPLA will notify families and the school community at least annually about the policy, how to participate in the Healthy School Team, and the availability of assessment results.
- IPLA will share wellness-policy updates with families, students, staff, and stakeholders through appropriate methods such as website notices, newsletters, parent meetings, handouts, and digital communications.

Recordkeeping

IPLA will maintain records documenting compliance with this Local School Wellness Policy. Records will include, at a minimum:

- The current written Local School Wellness Policy and any prior versions or revision history;
- Healthy School Team rosters, meeting agendas/minutes, stakeholder outreach, and evidence of community participation;
- Annual review records, action plans, monitoring tools, and evidence of implementation;
- The most recent triennial assessment and evidence that it was made available to the public;
- The exempted competitive-food fundraiser calendar and supporting approval documentation; and
- Documentation demonstrating public notice of this policy and any updates.

8. Regulatory Foundation

This policy is intended to align IPLA's K-5 wellness practices and school nutrition operations with current federal and Florida requirements. When program requirements change, IPLA will follow the current requirement and update this policy as needed.

Federal authority	Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; 7 CFR 210.31 (Local School Wellness Policy); 7 CFR 210.11 (Smart Snacks in School); 7 CFR 210.10 and 7 CFR 220.8 (school meal standards).
Florida guidance	Florida Statutes section 1003.453; Florida Administrative Code 5P-2.002; current FDACS School Nutrition Program guidance.
Policy administration	This policy adopts the then-current federal and state nutrition rules by reference. When a rule, program instruction, or state agency directive changes, the current requirement controls.

9. Policy Approval and Review Record

Complete the following record at adoption and during each formal review. Maintain the completed version in IPLA's wellness-policy compliance file.

Policy adopted/approved date	June 23, 2026
Approved by (IPLA leadership/governing body)	Twanna Monroe
Named Wellness Policy Coordinator or designee	Nina Durham-Keaton
Most recent triennial assessment date	June 23, 2026
Next annual review / next triennial assessment due date	June 23, 2027

Document control: Revised June 2026. This policy should be approved, dated, posted, and retained with IPLA wellness-policy compliance records.