

School Wellness Policy Task Force

Public Act 94-0199 required the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to form an interagency working group to convene a School Wellness Policy Task Force consisting of members of various organizations and agencies as identified in the legislation. The School Wellness Policy Task Force was formed and consists of the following members representing the agencies and organizations listed:

Sandra Brown
Action for Healthy Kids of Illinois

Tania Becke, M.D.
American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Chapter

Michelle Miles
American Cancer Society, Western Region Office

Peggy Jones
American Heart Association

Mark Bishop
Healthy Schools Campaign

Phyllis Pickett
Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Diane Hendren
Illinois Association of School Administrators

Linda Dawson
Illinois Association of School Boards

Lynn Rochkes
Illinois Association of School Nurses

Joseph R. Williams Sr.
Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents

Victoria Jackson
Illinois Department of Human Services

Chandana Nandi, M.S., R.D., L.D.N.
Illinois Department of Public Health

Constance G. Mueller, M.S., R.D., S.F.N.S.
Illinois Dietetic Association

Deb Rees, R.D., L.D.N.
Illinois Nutrition Education & Training Program

Marlene Bessert
Illinois Parents Teacher Association

Nancy LaCursia
Illinois School Health Association

Sharon Nichols
Illinois School Nutrition Association

Roxanne Ramage, M.S., R.D., L.D.N.
Illinois State Board of Education

Chifan Cheng, D.D.S.
Illinois State Dental Society

Jeannette Endres, Ph.D., R.D.
Southern Illinois University

The first School Wellness Policy Task Force meeting was held in Springfield on November 16, 2005. Legislation identifies that at a minimum the School Wellness Policy Task Force shall report its identification of barriers to implementing school wellness policies and its recommendations to reduce those barriers to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before January 1, 2006. The task force completed this assignment and the findings were sent to the General Assembly and Governor by January 1, 2006.

The School Wellness Policy Task Force was also charged with developing recommendations for statewide nutrition standards. The task force completed their recommendations for statewide nutrition standards and their report was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in January 2007 and is currently available online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/nutrition_standards.pdf.

Currently the Illinois School Wellness Policy Task Force continues its work on the review of Local District Wellness Policies as required by legislation. Several districts were randomly selected and task force members are currently conducting interviews at those schools. A report that summarizes the findings on Local Wellness Policies is due to the Governor and General Assembly no later than January 1, 2008.

For more information about the School Wellness Policy Task Force, please contact the Nutrition Programs Division at (800) 545-7892 or via electronic mail at cnp@isbe.net.