

School Wellness Policy Evaluation Results

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To: Warren, Luanne



Dear Luanne Warren of Clark School District,

You recently participated in a survey initiated through a partnership between South Dakota State University and the South Dakota Departments of Education and Health. The survey requested you to upload your most recent school wellness policy and respond to a series of questions. This study was intended to better understand how the state can support districts with the development of strong school wellness policies.

As part of this study, your district's school wellness policy was scored using WellSAT, the Wellness School Assessment Tool available at www.wellsat.org. WellSAT scores 5 areas as required by the Child Nutrition and Reauthorization Act of 2004 and expanded upon by the Health, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (Nutrition Education and Wellness Promotion, Standards for USDA Child Nutrition Programs and School Meals, Nutrition Standards for Competitive and Other Foods and Beverages, Physical Education and Physical Activity, and Evaluation) A strength score and comprehension score is provided for each of the 5 areas as well as a total strength score and total comprehensiveness score which are calculated as the average of the 5 areas. The *strength* of the policy refers to how strong the language reads. Strong words include those such as *will* and *must*. This is compared to weak words such as *should*, *will attempt to*, *could*. The *comprehensiveness* of the policy refers to the number of aspects included in the policy that match up to federal requirements.

Ninety-one policies were collected and scored from across the state of South Dakota as part of this study. The average total score (total strength score + total comprehensiveness score) was **71.13** out of a possible 200. The minimum total score was 4 and the maximum score was 163. The average total strength score (out of 100) was **22.92**; the minimum was 1 and the maximum was 75. The average total comprehensiveness score (out of 100) was **48.21**; the minimum was 3 and the maximum was 89. The scores from this study are similar to scores seen across the nation. However, these data indicate the need for additional support for school districts with school wellness efforts in order to improve the written school wellness policies.

Below are your district's school wellness policy results:

Total Score: **69.5**

Total Strength Score: **21.5**

Total Comprehensiveness Score: **48**

If you should have any questions about the results please contact me. Thank you for your participation in this study, your input is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Erin Eggert

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