THE VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL
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Wellness Committee Annual Report to the Board

Policy Reference: 3542.1 Local Wellness/Nutrition Policy

Date Submitted to Board: Thursday, November 20, 2025

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1. Committee Engagement and Activities

The chief school administrator, or designee, endeavored to engage the following representatives to develop, implement, monitor, review, and revise the school nutrition and physical activity initiatives:

- **Committee Meeting Held:**
  - July 30, 2025 – Pepe Meeting with Maschio
  - September 26, 2025 – Village Charter Admin Team & Maschio's Food Service Meeting
  - November 10th and November 18th, 2025 – Student Meeting
- **Key Stakeholders Engaged:** (Check all that apply and list names/titles of active members)
  - [X] Parents: Keoke Wooten-Johnson
  - [X] Students: Student Committee Meeting Held on 11/10/25
  - [X] School Food Authority Representatives: Nora Borza
  - [X] School Board Member: Dionne Hallback
  - [X] School Administrators: Tara Pepe
  - [X] Teachers: Emanual Matlock
  - [X] Health Professionals: Laura Snare
  - [ ] Members of the Public: N/A

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2. Annual Review of Policy Implementation

This section summarizes the programs and initiatives related to student wellness and nutrition implemented during this period.

Policy Area	Program/Initiative Implemented	Measurable Outcomes/Evidence of Success	Areas for Improvement
Nutrition Education	Physical Education & Health Classes - Incorporate **nutrition education and physical activity** consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.	PE teacher discussed the physical education and nutrition education standards followed for the PE and health curriculum.	Provide tangible examples and/or exemplars
Physical Education/Physical Activity	Ensure all students have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active regularly.	All students have recess (20 minutes) built into the lunch period as well as the required physical education time.	Better planning for the use of outside fields during the Fall before Winter starts.
School Meal Programs	[e.g., Participation rates, menu changes, quality assessment]		
Competitive Foods	Regulate and ensure all foods/beverages sold outside of federal meals (a la carte, vending, fundraisers, snack bars) meet the USDA Nutrition	No Vending Machines are present in the school. Administration & Food Service Staff directly monitor a la carte purchases.	

Policy Area	Program/Initiative Implemented	Measurable Outcomes/Evidence of Success	Areas for Improvement
	Standards for All Foods Sold in School.	All snacks and a la carte items are also served/sold by Maschio's and meet USDA nutrition standards.	

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3. Policy Compliance Status

This section serves as the **annual review** required by policy and sets the stage for the Triennial Assessment.

Compliance Area	Status (In Compliance / Not Applicable / Needs Improvement)	Specific Actions Taken or Required
Federal Standards (USDA/Dietary Guidelines)	Ensure all foods/beverages served/sold meet **USDA nutrition standards** (National School Lunch, Breakfast, and After School Snack Programs). **In Compliance**	Maschio representative confirmed that all foods/beverages sold and served by Maschio's meet USDA nutrition standards
Competitive Food Rules (Smart Snacks)	Regulate and ensure all foods/beverages sold outside of federal meals (a la carte, vending, fundraisers, snack bars) meet the **USDA Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School** **In Compliance**	Maschio representative confirmed that all snacks and a la carte items also served/sold by Maschio's meet USDA nutrition standards. Any foods sold for fundraisers do not need to meet these requirements if they are sold/served outside of the regular school hours.

Compliance Area	Status (In Compliance / Not Applicable / Needs Improvement)	Specific Actions Taken or Required
Marketing Restrictions	Ensure marketing of foods/beverages on campus during the school day is **only for products that meet competitive foods requirements**. **In Compliance**	Maschio confirmed that we are meeting all requirements for Maschio's food. We do not sell outside food and have no vending machines available.
20 Minutes Daily Recess/Activity	Daily schedule must allow for periods of physical activity (before/after meals) and a **minimum of 20 minutes for recess daily**. **In Compliance**	School has a 20-minute recess built into the lunch schedule
Prohibition of Recess Withholding	The code of student conduct must **prohibit withholding recess or other periods of physical activity as a consequence or disciplinary option**. **In Compliance**	This is prohibited, however, the principal is sending reminders to staff to review the policy and ensure it is followed.
Adequate Meal Time/Pleasant Environment	Provide **adequate time** for students to consume their meals in a **clean, safe, and pleasant dining environment**. **In Compliance**	The current school schedule includes time to eat and built-in recess. ALL inspections are up to date.

Compliance Area	Status (In Compliance / Not Applicable / Needs Improvement)	Specific Actions Taken or Required
Biosecurity for Food Service	The **chief school administrator** must specifically address the issue of **biosecurity for the school food service**.	Maschio representative reviewed biosecurity protocols put in place and followed by Maschio's food service staff.
Annual Public Notification	Ensure the public is informed about the policy, and the policy/updates are **made available to the public on an annual basis**.	The Board Agenda is made public and will serve as public notification that this policy will be reviewed/discussed.
Recordkeeping Requirements	Maintain records documenting compliance (written policy, community involvement, triennial assessment, public notification).	Local Wellness and Nutrition Policy Compliance Review Tracking Document Created

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4. Recommendations to the Board

Based on the annual review, the Wellness Committee recommends the following revisions or considerations for the Board's formal review.

- **Policy Revisions Recommended (If Applicable):**
  - Approve the number and name change of policy 3542.3 (Unpaid Meals Policy) to policy 3542.2 (SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM ARREARS) and adoption of policy 3542.2 (SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM ARREARS) that was updated by the state in June 2024
- **Program/Initiative Recommendations:**
  - **Prohibition of Recess Withholding**
  - Provide an exemplar/evidence of the curriculum used for nutrition education
  - Better use of outdoor field resources during non-inclement weather times

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5. Triennial Assessment Status

- **Year of Current Assessment Cycle:** 3
- **Date of Last Triennial Assessment:** November 18, 2025
- **Date of Next Required Triennial Assessment:** November 18, 2028

Note: If this is the year for the Triennial Assessment, the final report must include the three required measures:

1. The extent to which **each school is in compliance** with the policy. **In Compliance**
2. The extent to which the board policy **compares to the federal and state model school wellness policies**. **In Compliance, except for the charge policy, which is being updated on November 20, 2025**
3. A **description of the progress made** in attaining the goals of the policy. **Updated policy being taken to the board on November 20, 2025.**