**CFPA Comments on *Draft Statements of Model Practices: Review and Feedback Survey***

Submitted to the California Department of Education and State Board of Education on 02/13/2017 at <http://cdefoundation.org/model-practices-survey/>

**\*\*\*SURVEY QUESTIONS IN** *ITALICS***. CFPA RESPONSES IN RED\*\*\***

**Priority 1: Basic Services (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice1-CDE-2017.pdf)**)**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 1?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 1? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area.* ***[maximum 1,500 characters]***

California Food Policy Advocates support including:

* Language on facilities promoting the health and wellbeing of occupants
* Upgrading cafeteria and kitchen facilities as a model practice to support access to nutritious, quality meals

In the Facilities section, we recommend:

* Desired Results section incorporate language from the Summary which states, “School facilities...promote the health and well-being of occupants...”
* Including the following Model Practice: **Increase water access points** and maintenance activities and/or facility improvements to **provide clean, cold, safe, and appealing drinking water free of charge** to all students at all district facilities.

Most children and adolescents do not consume enough water. Research shows that even mild dehydration can lead to significant impairments in cognitive function. Water consumption can improve students’ classroom focus and academic performance.

For more examples of Model Practices see page 13 of CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**Priority 2, Standards Implementation (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice2-CDE-2017.pdf)**):**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 2?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 2? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area.* ***[maximum 1,500 characters]***

California Food Policy Advocates support including:

* Language under the Desired Results section indicating instructional strategies and materials should be designed to address not only the academic, but also the, “cultural, social, physical, and emotional well-being of all students…”

In the Summary and Desired Results section, we recommend:

* **Expanding language on who participates in professional learning** **to include** educators, administrators and **other school/district staff** (such as food service directors, cafeteria managers and others integral in supporting the health and well-being of students).

We recommend including the following Model Practice:

* **Teachers and school/district staff,** such as food service directors and health educators, **participate in professional learning that supports** the health and well-being of students, such as those that strengthen their **knowledge of and skills on how to integrate nutrition strategies** for use across standards-aligned curriculum and instruction.

For more examples of model practices see page 14 of CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**Priority 3, Parental Involvement (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice3-CDE-2017.pdf)**):**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 3?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 3? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area. [maximum 1,500 characters]*

In the Summary and Desired Results section, California Food Policy Advocates recommend:

* Incorporating language that promotes **engaging parents in supporting the social, emotional and physical needs of students** to reach high academic standards.

We recommend including the following Model Practice:

* **Provide support to increase parent, student, community member and district staff participation in** district and school advisory groups, such as **district wellness councils**. Support could include such actions as hiring a wellness coordinator and providing release time/teaching substitutes for district staff members to participate.

For more examples of model practices see page 14 of CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**Priority 4, Pupil Achievement (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice4-CDE-2017.pdf)**):**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 4?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 4? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area.* ***[maximum 1,500 characters]***

California Food Policy Advocates recommend:

* Expanding the Statement of Model Practices to **include support for the social, emotional and physical needs of students to reach high academic standards**. Broadening the scope of this priority would give districts flexibility to meet the needs of their students, including basic needs such as nutrition, so they can achieve high academic standards.

Research tells us that **healthy and well-nourished children are more likely to attend class, be ready to learn, stay engaged and perform well in school**. However, around 2 million children in California live in food insecure households, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to adequate food. **School meal programs help level the playing field for low-income California** **children** by providing them the nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive.

We recommend including the following Model Practices:

* **Provide breakfast after the bell.** School breakfast significantly improves school performance and reduces absenteeism and tardiness while improving children’s diets.
* **Offer meals free of charge to all students.** Children experiencing hunger are more likely to have behavioral, emotional and academic problems. Offering universal free meals increases meal participation which can decrease a child’s risk of experiencing hunger.

For more examples of model practices see CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**Priority 5, Pupil Engagement (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice5-CDE-2017.pdf)**):**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 5?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 5? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area.* ***[maximum 1,500 characters]***

The California Food Policy Advocates recommend:

* Expanding the scope of the Statement of Model Practices to **include support for the social, emotional and physical needs of students**.

In the Desired Results section, we recommend:

* The first sentence be amended to read, “Barriers to regular school attendance, including mental health, chronic illness, transportation barriers, **and food insecurity** should be eliminated or reduced.”

Around 2 million children in California live in food insecure households, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to adequate food. **Children experiencing hunger are more likely to miss school.**

We recommend including the following Model Practices:

* **Offer breakfast after the bell.** School breakfast programs have been shown to improve attendance and reduce absenteeism.
* **Maximize participation in all available nutrition programs (school breakfast, lunch, summer and afterschool).** Food-insecure children and teenagers have been shown to miss school more frequently. Food-insecure teenagers also have an increased likelihood of being suspended from school. Participating in the school nutrition programs can decrease a child’s risk of food insecurity.

For more examples of model practices see page 16 of CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**Priority 6, School Climate (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice6-CDE-2017.pdf)**):**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 6?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 6? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area.* ***[maximum 1,500 characters]***

California Food Policy Advocates support including:

* Language in the Summary around school culture and climate supporting the whole child.
* Implementing strong school wellness policies and ensuring year-round access to nutritious meals as Model Practices. In addition to “year-round” access, we recommend including language that **promotes school meal access** during the school day **and after school** through school **breakfast after the bell**, school lunch and **after school meals**.

Under School Climate, we recommend including the following Model Practice:

* **Increase water access points** and maintenance activities and/or facility improvements to **provide clean, cold, safe, and appealing drinking water free of charge** to all students at all district facilities.

Under Suspension and Expulsion rates, we recommend including the following Model Practice:

* **Maximize participation in all available nutrition programs (school breakfast, lunch, summer and after school).** Food-insecure teenagers have an increased likelihood of being suspended from school. Participating in the school nutrition programs can decrease a child’s risk for food insecurity.

For more examples of model practices see page 16-18 of CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**Priority 7, Course Access (**[**draft**](http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/Education%20Reform/StatementofModelPractice7-CDE-2017.pdf)**):**

*How would you classify the current draft of the Statement of Model Practices for priority 7?*

* *Great as is*
* *Needs minor revisions*
* *Needs moderate revisions*
* *Needs major revisions*

*What specific, actionable suggestions do you have for improvements to the Statement of Model Practices for priority 7? Feel free to include links to evidence-based or research-supported resources that you believe would be very helpful to LEAs in this area. [maximum 1,500 characters]*

The California Food Policy Advocates recommend:

* Expanding the scope of the Statement of Model Practices to make it clear that LCFF funds can **support equitable access to a broad course of study** that includes the availability of all subject areas for students **including nutrition education** aligned with Common Core State Standards and other state board adopted content and performance standards.

Broadening the scope of this priority is in alignment with local control principles--allowing districts the flexibility to address the comprehensive needs of their student population.

For example model practices see page 18 of CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>

**General Comments**

*Please provide any additional overarching comments/suggestions for the Statements of Model Practices not covered by the questions above.* ***[limited to 2,000 characters]***

The California Food Policy Advocates is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. We have nearly 25 years of experience working with the school meal programs.

CFPA recommend that the Statements of Model Practices for each priority 1-7:

1. Include language and practices that **promote the whole child approach to education--supporting ​students' social, emotional and physical needs**. A ‘whole child approach’ is in alignment with local control principles--allowing districts the flexibility to address the needs of their student population, including basic needs such as nutrition.
2. Provide Model Practices for districts to **improve access to school meal programs**. Research tells us that **healthy and well-nourished children are more likely to attend class, be ready to learn, stay engaged and perform well in school**.
However, around 2 million children in California live in food insecure households, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to adequate food. **School meal programs help level the playing field for low-income California** **children** by providing them the nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive.

There are many evidence-based nutrition actions that districts can take to help low-income students reach their full academic potential. For example:

* **Provide breakfast after the bell.** School Breakfast significantly improves school performance and reduces absenteeism and tardiness while improving children’s diets.
* **Offer meals free of charge to all students.** Children experiencing hunger are more likely to have behavioral, emotional and academic problems. Offering universal free meals increases meal participation which can decrease a child’s risk of experiencing hunger.

For more example model practices see CFPA’s LCAP Guide: <http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA_LCAP_Booklet_FINAL_16_12_05.pdf>