



Triennial Assessment FAQ's

General Triennial Assessment Questions

Question: When is the Triennial Assessment (TEA) due?

Answer: It depends. The original TEA was supposed to be completed by June 30, 2020. However, USDA and the California Department of Education (CDE) offered waivers to extend the deadline. If your Local Educational Agency (LEA) submitted a waiver, the TEA should be complete by June 30, 2022. If your LEA did not submit a waiver, the TEA should have been completed by June 30, 2021.

Question: It is difficult when our School Food Authority does not receive support and participation on the LSWP. Nutrition is a portion of the LSWP but there are other facets - physical education, nutrition and health education, mental health - that are just as important. Our department leads the LSWP but it is difficult and overwhelming without support from other departments. How do we improve our collaboration efforts and help other to see the need for their participation and support?

Answer: Align your goals with the priorities of the people you are trying to engage. Find champions, and build momentum from there. Keep your superintendent informed and engaged.

Question: Is the county intending to do this on behalf of districts or are the districts to do this themselves?

Answer: The Triennial Assessment is typically conducted at the district level, but County Offices of Education may provide support.

Question: The WellSAT has been used here in the past as our assessment--will this be done again?

Answer: LEAs determine which assessment tool they will use.

Question: What are districts supposed to input that they used the WellSAT tool?

Answer: The [Triennial Assessment Template](#) provides LEAs with forms to complete with this information.

Question: The language surrounding the wellness assessments can be interpreted as fat-phobic/setting students up for restrictive eating disorders. How can we incorporate body positivity and get rid of some of the food shame language?

Answer: You are welcome to modify assessment tools to include more inclusive, and body positive language, or find/create an assessment that better meets your needs.

Question: What would be some example of potential stakeholders in this work?

Answer: Community partners, PE Teachers, school nurses, principals, teachers, students, parents, school nutrition services, etc.



Question: Our health and wellness looks more like social emotional mental health right now and less nutrition is that okay?

Answer: Yes, absolutely! We encourage LEAs to use momentum around whichever issue is a high priority for the broader school community.

Question: Can we use data from California Healthy Kids survey to help us with this as well?

Answer: Absolutely! We encourage LEAs to use whichever data assists them in completing their TEA.

Question: Do we need to submit anything to the CDE by June 30, 2022?

Answer: No. CDE will gather the information from you during their Administrative Review.

Question: What will the state ask during the Administrative Review?

Answer:

- Please explain how the required elements of the LSWP are being met.
- How does the public know about the Local School Wellness Policy?
- Who is involved in reviewing and updating the LSWP? What is their relationship with School Food Authority
- When and how does the review and update of the LSWP occur?
- How are potential stakeholders made aware of their ability to participate in the development, review, update, and implementation of the LSWP?
- Provide a copy of the most recent assessment on the implementation of the LSWP.
- How does the public know about the results of the most recent assessment on the implementation of the LSWP?

Question: Do you require a minimum number of meetings with the wellness committee?

Answer: No. The number of meetings with the wellness committee is up to the LEA.

Question: Can you show us how to get to the Triennial assessment page on Let's Eat Healthy website?

Answer: Visit www.healthyeating.org 'Our Cause' → 'Our Partners' → 'California Local School Wellness Policy Collaborative' → scroll down to 'Triennial Assessment Template' or visit: <https://www.healthyeating.org/triennialassessment>

Component 1: Comparison to a Model Wellness Policy Questions

Question: How do we access a model wellness policy? What are other model policies districts can compare to?

Answer: Model wellness policies are available on the CA LSWP Triennial Assessment Webpage: <https://www.healthyeating.org/triennialassessment>



Question: Can they compare to other districts in the region or it has to be the alliance policy?

Answer: Yes, districts can identify model wellness policies that work best for them. The [Triennial Assessment Template](#) provides examples, but LEAs are not required to use a specific policy.

Question: Is comparison with 2 model policies is good enough or should do comparison with all the model policies?

Answer: LEAs only need to compare your LSWP with one model wellness policy, but can complete additional comparisons if they choose.

Component 2: Extent of Compliance for All Schools with the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Questions

Question: I am new to this position and don't know where to gather this data from.

Answer: The [Triennial Assessment Template](#) provides guidance and resources on where and how to gather this information.

Question: Does the assessment simply review the policy or does it review actions?

Answer: The second component focuses on LSWP **compliance** of schools within the district, so it is looking at actions, rather than the written policy.

Question: What about distance learning programs?

Answer: Any LEA that participates in the National School Lunch program must complete the Triennial Assessment.

Question: Who completes the assessment of schools? Does it have to be an administrator? Could it be a school health tech? Or a kitchen manager? What do you do if no one has the time to complete it for their site?

Answer: School assessments can be completed by any member of the school community who has the information. Consider connecting with your school site councils to complete the assessment.

Question: We are a large district and I have a difficult time receiving responses from principals regarding their compliance with the wellness policy. How do I receive more responses?

Answer: Try finding other champions, like teachers, school nurses, community organizations, students, parents, etc. at the schools who might be able to respond.

Question: Can schools complete a google form to fill out this information?

Answer: Yes! LEAs are encouraged to use whatever systems work best for them to gather this information. A google form is a great example.



Question: Is there a certain number of stakeholders we should gather survey feedback from, or just as many as possible?

Answer: There isn't a minimum number of stakeholders you should receive feedback from. Just as many as it takes to answer the questions. We recommend using school site councils to complete the assessment, if possible.

Component 3: Progress Made in Reaching LSWP Goals

Question: What is the difference between component 2 and component 3?

Answer: Component 2 focuses on the *implementation of the LSWP at the school site level*. Component 3 focuses on assessing progress in reaching the *broader goals* outlined in the LSWP at the *district level*.

Question: If our wellness policy has specific goals in the language, can we use these goals vs creating new ones with the wellness committee?

Answer: Yes, if you have already created goals for your LSWP, there is no need to create new goals.

Component 4: Triennial Assessment Report to the Public

Question: What are your recommendations for sharing this information with the public?

Answer: Some examples include posting it to district and/or school websites, sharing in a district/school newsletter, sharing via social media, school board meeting, administrator's meetings, PTO meetings, etc.

Question: If districts share the assessment at wellness meeting--it is sufficient?

Answer: The results of the assessment should be shared more broadly with the public, not just at a wellness committee meeting. What you decide to share and how you share the information will depend on your audience.