

ADVERTISMENT

Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#) | [Text Alerts](#) Find It: [Subscribe](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Deals](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Dating](#)

Coshocton Tribune .com

SEARCH ALL [go](#)

SPONSORED BY: [momslife.com](#)

HOME NEWS SPORTS OBITUARIES OPINIONS PHOTOS & VIDEOS OHIO NEWS ENTERTAINMENT WEATHER CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Local News Updates Lifestyle Nation, World & Politics Local Data Center Gas Prices Elections Archive

Comment, Blog & Share Photos
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)

POWERED BY YOU AND THE TRIBUNE

'Healthy Choices' bill targets obesity in schools, will focus on nutrition

BY PEGGY O'FARRELL • THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER • NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Comments (0) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share

A bill introduced to Ohio legislators Tuesday makes schools the new battlefield in the war on childhood [obesity](#).

ADVERTISMENT

[ABA will give you \\$2,500 a year to go to school](#)

[Age 55 or older? Pay 75% less for your cruise](#)

[Muscle building miracle discovered](#)

[Stay out of the doctor's office for 62 cents a day](#)

[Mysterious fruits reverse aging, improve health](#)

[Scholarships available for parents going back to school](#)

The "Healthy Choices for Healthy Children" bill, simultaneously introduced in the Ohio [House and Senate](#), aims to curb obesity by improving students' access to nutritious foods, making physical activity mandatory and tracking students' weight within a period of years.

"Kids spend six, seven hours a day at school. It's the No. 1 place they are outside their homes," said state Sen. Eric Kearney, D-North Avondale, a co-sponsor of the bill. "The easiest way to build good behaviors is by starting in schools."

A July report ranked Ohio 15th nationally for the number of overweight or obese children 10-17, with about a third of children and teens classified as too heavy.

The bill's authors say 27 states have set nutrition guidelines on food sold in vending machines and school stores, and 20 now require body-mass-index screenings or other weight-related assessments for students.

The bill is endorsed by a coalition of [health care](#) organizations, food industry associations and hospitals, including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

If legislators approve the bill this session as it's now written, some of the components could take effect in the 2010-11 school year.

Components of the bill include:

- Requiring 30 minutes of moderate to rigorous physical activity daily, not including recess.

According to the bill's authors, 55 percent of Ohio high school students don't meet those guidelines.

- Increases the physical education requirement for high school students from a half-unit to a full unit, effective with students entering ninth grade in the fall 2010. Thirty-five states now have mandatory PE requirements.

ADVERTISMENT

Ads by pulse360

Online Six Sigma Training
 Earn Six Sigma Master Certificate From Villanova U
www.VillanovaU.com

Advance Your Career
 Get your degree online. 1000+ programs. Search now.
www.BuildaCareer.net

Get Listed

More News Headlines

- [Fate of OSU Extension in Coshocton remains uncertain](#) (1)
- [GRANDPARENTS VISIT KEENE ELEMENTARY](#)
- [Out-of-town union workers donate food, money to local charities](#) (3)
- [Lawmakers deadlocked again on budget fix](#)
- [RED CROSS RECEIVES CONTRIBUTION](#)

Text Alerts

Get text alerts sent to your phone.

Enter your phone number:

[Continue](#)

T & C | Privacy | Cancel Alerts
 Powered by 4INFO. Message and Data Rates May Apply. To Opt-out text STOP to 4INFO (44636). For more information text HELP to 4INFO (44636). Contact your carrier for more details.

ADS BY PULSE 360 [Get Listed Here](#)

The Truth About Penny Stocks
 Sign up and find out how our subscribers are making massive profits
www.PennyPic.com

Pataskala Refinance at 4.25% FIXED!
 No hidden fees! (4.4% APR) Get 4 FREE Quotes! No

- Requires PE teachers to be certified and licensed as PE teachers, effective in 2013-14.
- Requires local districts and schools to include PE performance on their "report cards" and requires PE teachers to adhere to content standards set by the State Board of Education. The state board adopted guidelines in June.
- Allows schools to provide a free breakfast to all students who qualify for a free or reduced-price breakfast. Research shows that students who eat breakfast at school get better test scores, have fewer health problems and behave better in class.
- Requires schools to offer foods and beverages on a la carte menus and in vending machines that meet federal nutrition guidelines as closely as possible. Twenty-seven states set nutrition requirements for food sold in schools.
- Requires schools to measure students' body mass index when they enter school and again in third, fifth and ninth grades.
- Requires schools to educate parents about their child's BMI and associated [health risks](#) and to post weight status information on local district and building report cards.

Lisa Simpson, director of the Child Policy Research Center at Cincinnati Children's, said Ohio is "behind many other states" when it comes to addressing childhood obesity.

"This legislation will help Ohio not only catch up but become a leader in school-based interventions against obesity," she said.

At Oyler School in Lower Price Hill, teachers and students are already following many of the guidelines set out in the bill, said Principal Craig Hockenberry.

"I love this bill," Hockenberry said. "Childhood obesity is a big problem, especially for kids growing up in poverty."

Oyler houses students from pre-school through 12th grade. Lunch used to be the final period for high school students, Hockenberry said, and once students finished eating, they'd head home.

But school officials re-arranged the schedule, and now, high school students have a 20-minute block of recreational time.

School nurses already track students' BMI measurements, he said, and the school works with the Freestore Foodbank to make sure low-income students get healthy food that they can take home with them on weekends.

SSN reqd.
www.LendGo.com

Obama's School Stimulus Money \$\$\$
Get Financial Assistance and Go to School Online.
Start Today!
ClassesAndCareers.com/Stimulus



[Comments >>](#)

Be the first to share your thoughts on this story.

ADVERTISEMENT



Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) [Cars: Cars.com](#) [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#) [Dating: eHarmony](#) [Homes: Homefinder.com](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Opinions](#) | [Photos & Videos](#) | [Ohio News](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Weather](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2009
Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) , updated March 2009.