# Nutrition Education Competencies 

Aligned with the

# California Health Education Content Standards 

Center for Nutrition in Schools<br>Department of Nutrition<br>University of California, Davis

Project funded by the California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division September 2009

|  | Overarching Health Content Standard | Overarching Nutrition Education Competency (ONEC) Students will... |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Essential health concepts: All students will comprehend essential concepts related to enhancing health. | Know the relationships among nutrition, physiology, and enhancing health. |
| 2 | Analyzing health influences: All students will demonstrate the ability to analyze internal and external influences that affect health. | Analyze internal and external factors influencing food choices and health outcomes. |
| 3 | Accessing valid health information: All students will demonstrate the ability to access and analyze health information, products, and services. | Demonstrate the ability to access nutrition information, products, and services and determine the accuracy and validity of nutrition claims. |
| 4 | Interpersonal communication: All students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health. | Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to optimize food choices and health outcomes. |
| 5 | Decision making: All students will demonstrate the ability to use decisionmaking skills to enhance health. | Demonstrate the ability to use decisionmaking skills to optimize food choices and health outcomes. |
| 6 | Goal Setting: All students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health. | Demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance nutrition and health. |
| 7 | Practicing health-enhancing behaviors: All students will demonstrate the ability to practice behaviors that reduce risk and promote health. | Demonstrate the ability to practice nutritionrelated behaviors that reduce risk and promote health. |
| 8 | Health promotion: All students will demonstrate the ability to promote and support personal, family, and community health. | Demonstrate the ability to promote and support a sustainable, nutritious food supply and healthy lifestyles for families and communities. |

# Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards 

## Overarching Health Education Content Standard, Essential Health Concepts:

All students will comprehend essential concepts related to enhancing health.

Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 1:
$\Rightarrow$ All students will know the relationships among nutrition, physiology, and enhancing health.

| Content Area: <br> Students will: | Kindergarten | Grades 1-2 | Grades 3-4 | Grades 5-6 | Grades 7-8 | Grades 9-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Know the six nutrient groups and their functions. | Identify the variety of foods of plant origin. <br> Classify plant foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and grains. <br> Identify the variety of foods of animal origin, such as eggs, fish, poultry, beef, and milk. | Describe the main functions of fat, carbohydrate, protein, vitamins, minerals, and water. | Identify and define key nutrients and their functions.* | Classify food products of plant and animal sources by the major nutrients they provide. | Identify nutrients and their relationships to health.* <br> Describe methods to analyze the nutritional value of foods and beverages.* <br> Name the key nutrients in each food group and investigate how the body uses these nutrients. | Classify nutrients into macronutrients and micronutrients. <br> Explain how the Dietary Reference Intakes may be used to assess dietary quality. <br> Define and analyze the functions of phytochemicals. |
| Know nutrition and health guidelines. | Name a variety of healthy foods and explain why they are necessary for energy and good health.* <br> Identify a variety of healthy snacks.* <br> Describe tools used to measure servings of food. <br> State the purpose of food advertisements and commercials. | Classify various foods into appropriate food groups.* <br> Identify the number of servings of food from each food group that a child needs daily.* <br> Identify actions key to feeling healthy and growing a healthy body. <br> Describe the benefits of drinking water in amounts consistent with current research-based health guidelines.* | State the recommended number of servings and serving sizes for different food groups.* <br> Identify at least one key nutrient provided by recommended food groups. <br> List recommendations for maintaining a healthy body and positive self-esteem. <br> Explain the importance of drinking plenty of water, especially during | Describe the food groups, including recommended portions to eat from each food group.* <br> Explain why some food groups have a greater number of recommended portions than other food groups.* <br> Differentiate between more-nutritious and lessnutritious beverages and snacks.* <br> Explain the concept of | Compare and contrast use of the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and USDA food guide for planning healthy meals. <br> Analyze the harmful effects of engaging in unscientific diet practices to lose or gain weight.* <br> Explain how to use a Body Mass Index (BMI) score as a tool for measuring general health.* | Describe dietary guidelines, food groups, nutrients, and serving sizes for healthy eating habits.* <br> Research and discuss the practical use of current research-based guidelines for a nutritionally balanced diet.* <br> Explain the importance of variety and moderation in food selection and consumption.* |

Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

|  |  | Identify physical activities that students can enjoy and sustain for 30 minutes every day. <br> Identify how to recognize credible nutrition information. | vigorous physical activity.* | eating in moderation.* <br> Identify key components of the "Nutrition Facts" label.* <br> Describe examples of how different cultures may meet dietary guidelines using a variety of foods. | Analyze the major nutritional benefits of specific plant and animal food products. | Distinguish between facts and myths regarding nutrition practices, products, and physical performance.* <br> Explain the harmful effects of using diet pills and anabolic steroids.* <br> Explain why people with eating disorders need professional help.* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Know factors affecting energy balance. | Recognize that we need food to provide energy. <br> Identify why we need active play and other physical activity. <br> Identify a form of physical activity that children enjoy at school and at home. | Describe how energy is obtained and expended during the day. <br> Describe a variety of physical activities that will help keep children physically fit. <br> Identify opportunities outside of school for regular participation in physical activity.* | Explain reasons for the differences in the amount of food required by individuals. <br> Describe the benefits of moderate and vigorous physical activity.* | Define a Calorie and describe how it is used by the body. <br> Explain how energy is obtained and expended during physical activity. | Describe methods to analyze the caloric value of foods and beverages.* <br> Recognize that different foods contain different amounts of energy which is in the form of Calories. <br> Compare caloric values of food according to the percent of fat, protein, and carbohydrate they contain. <br> Identify ways to increase daily physical activity.* | Describe the amounts and types of physical activity recommended for teenagers' overall health and for the maintenance of a healthy body weight.* <br> Compare the Calorie content of macronutrients and analyze the relationship between calorie intake and expenditure. |
| Describe how nutritional needs vary throughout the life cycle. | Identify one reason people of different ages need different foods. | Describe some of the different food needs people have at different ages. | Describe the amounts and types of food people need at different ages. | Name 5 life stages and list examples of special nutritional needs at each life stage. <br> Explain the unique nutritional needs of preadolescents and compare | Compare and contrast the specific nutritional needs at each life stage. | Describe nutrition practices that are important for the health of a pregnant woman and her baby.* <br> Identify and compare foods rich in nutrients |

Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

|  |  |  |  | these needs to other life stages. |  | important for adolescent and adult health in a daily diet. <br> Assess how age, gender, activity level, and other factors influence nutritional needs during each of the five life stages. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Identify the physiological processes in digestion, absorption, and metabolism of nutrients | Describe foods using senses: taste, touch, sight, smell, and sound. | Explain that food is used and stored by our bodies to help us have energy for growing, learning, and activity. | Illustrate the pathway of food during the process of digestion. | Explain the relationship between the intake of nutrients and metabolism.* <br> Examine the pathway of food and its conversion to energy during the process of digestion. <br> Describe the physiological reasons for the differences in the nutritional needs for each life stage. | Describe the benefits of eating a variety of foods high in iron, calcium, and fiber.* <br> Illustrate how the different body systems interact. | Analyze the physiological processes involved in the digestion, absorption, and metabolism of nutrients. <br> Analyze the interaction of the different body systems and what happens when these systems do not function properly. |
| Explain the influence of nutrition and physical activity on health. | Recognize that eating healthy foods, such as vegetables and fruits, is beneficial for the body. <br> Recognize the importance of a healthy breakfast.* <br> Describe the benefits of being physically active.* | List the benefits of healthy eating (including beverages and snacks).* <br> Discuss the benefits of eating a nutritious breakfast every day.* <br> Explain how both physical activity and eating habits can affect a person's health.* | Describe the relationship between food intake, physical activity, and good health.* <br> Name and explain benefits of eating fruits and vegetables. <br> Identify the benefits of eating whole grains. <br> Name and explain two disadvantages of beverages high in sugar. | Explain how good health is influenced by healthy eating and being physically active.* <br> Describe the benefits of eating a nutritionally balanced diet consistent with current researchbased dietary guidelines.* <br> Identify physical, academic, mental, and social benefits of regular physical activity.* | Differentiate between diets that are healthpromoting and diets linked to disease.* <br> Identify the impact of nutrition on chronic disease.* <br> Describe the short- and long-term impact of nutritional choices on health.* <br> Explain the cognitive and physical benefits of eating breakfast daily.* | Describe the relationship between poor eating habits and chronic diseases such as heart disease, obesity, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and osteoporosis.* <br> Describe the prevalence, causes, and long-term consequences of unhealthy eating.* <br> Identify the causes, symptoms, and harmful effects of eating disorders.* |

Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

| Know principles of handling (growing, harvesting, transporting, processing, storing, and preparing) foods for optimal food quality and safety. | Describe how to wash hands before handling food. <br> Identify one way of safely preparing foods for eating. <br> Name one way to store food that helps to keep it safe and fresh. | Describe how to keep food safe from harmful germs.* <br> Identify how to safely use kitchen tools to prepare food. <br> Explain why hand washing is important when preparing and eating food. <br> Identify examples of foods that must be stored at cool temperatures, in the refrigerator or freezer. Describe how food is handled on its way from farm to table. | Identify how to keep food safe through proper food preparation and storage.* <br> Explain how food can contain germs that cause illness.* <br> Explain what foodborne illnesses are and how these illnesses are contracted. <br> Identify a variety of ways to include fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in daily meals and snacks. | Describe safe food handling and preparation practices. <br> Identify symptoms of foodborne illness. <br> Describe ways to prevent foodborne illness. <br> Explain how food is transported from farm to table, focusing on maintaining nutritional quality. <br> Identify the food temperature danger zone. <br> Identify examples of jobs related to food and nutrition. | Identify ways to prepare food that are consistent with current researchbased guidelines for a nutritionally balanced diet.* <br> Describe how to keep food safe through proper food purchasing, preparation, and storage practices.* <br> Examine the health risks caused by food contaminants.* <br> Identify careers found in each phase of the food cycle. | Explain how to keep food safe through proper food purchasing, preparation, and storage practices.* <br> Compare and analyze food-related careers such as jobs related to nutrition, dietetics, food technology, culinary arts, agricultural production, and food safety. <br> Describe the advantages and disadvantages of food processing, including the effect on food quality, safety, nutrient content, and the environment. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Consider the interactions among nutrition science, ecosystems, agriculture, and social systems that affect health, including local, national, and global perspectives. | Describe what plants and animals need for growth. <br> Identify edible parts of plants and trees. | Identify two ways that geographical factors influence food availability and quality. <br> Identify factors that affect the availability of food, such as economics, location, and culture. <br> Identify foods grown in different regions of California. <br> Name one healthy example of a food item associated with a certain | Identify foods grown in different regions of the state, the country, and the world, and how some of those foods are produced. <br> List examples of foods that are grown in California and in regions of the United States. <br> Describe the role of food webs within natural systems. <br> Explain the concept of food security. | Describe and illustrate the food cycle. <br> Compare and contrast types of foods produced in specific regions of California and the United States. <br> Describe the relationship between ecosystems and nutrition science. <br> Analyze reasons why an abundance of food crops are grown in California. <br> Recognize different food | Explain two factors that influence the quality and quantity of food available locally, nationally, and globally. <br> Describe how economics, social systems, and education impact the nutritional status of individuals. <br> Examine the technological factors that help create the quality and quantity of food we need. | Explain how local, national, and global factors influence food intake. <br> Analyze data to determine the local, national, and global influences on the quantity and quality of food. <br> Identify how social conditions may influence food availability. <br> Analyze the |

## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

|  |  |  | country or cultural <br> group. | Identify the definition of <br> nutrition science. | production systems, <br> such as organic, <br> sustainable, and <br> conventional. | Examine how local, <br> national and global <br> factors influence the <br> food cycle. <br> different food <br> production systems, <br> such as organic, <br> sustainable, and <br> conventional. <br> Compare the different <br> food production <br> systems. |
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# Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards 

> Overarching Health Education Standard 2: Analyzing Health Influences
> All students will demonstrate the ability to analyze internal and external influences that affect health.

## Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 2:

$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to analyze internal and external factors influencing food choices and health outcomes.


## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

> Overarching Health Education Standard, Accessing Valid Health Information:
> All students will demonstrate the ability to access and analyze health information, products, and services.

## Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 3:

$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to access nutrition information, products, and services and determine the accuracy and validity of nutrition claims.

| K | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Demonstrate the difference between good advice about food choices and advertisements for selling products, such as high-sugar cereals. | Identify resources for reliable information about healthy foods.* | Identify resources for valid information about safe and healthy foods.* <br> Use food labels to determine nutrient and sugar content.* | Locate age-appropriate guidelines for eating and physical activity.* <br> Interpret information provided on food labels.* | Distinguish between valid and invalid sources of nutrition information.* | Access sources of accurate information about safe and healthy weight management.* |
|  |  |  |  | Evaluate the accuracy of claims about dietary supplements and popular diets.* | Evaluate the accuracy of claims about food and dietary supplements.* |
|  |  |  |  | Describe how to access nutrition information about foods offered in restaurants in one's community.* | Describe how to use nutrition information on food labels to compare products.* |
|  |  |  |  | Identify places where youths and families can be physically active.* | Describe criteria for assessing the validity of nutrition information. |
|  |  |  |  | Identify trusted adults in one's family, school, and community for advice and counseling regarding | Evaluate the accuracy of claims about the safety of fitness products.* |
|  |  |  |  | healthy eating and physical activity.* | Describe community programs and services that help people gain access to affordable, healthy foods.* |
|  |  |  |  |  | Analyze Nutrition Facts food labels to compare Calorie and macronutrient content. |

## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

Overarching Health Education Standard 4, Interpersonal Communication:
All students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health.

Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 4:
$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to optimize food choices and health outcomes.

| K | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
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| Explain how to ask family members for healthy food options.* | Demonstrate how to ask family members for healthy food options.* <br> Demonstrate the ability to respect differences in body shapes and sizes. | Demonstrate effective communication skills to ask for healthy food choices.* | Use communication skills to deal effectively with influences from peers and media regarding food choices and physical activity.* | Demonstrate the ability to use effective skills to model healthy decision making and prevent over consumption of foods and beverages.* <br> Practice effective communication skills with parents, guardians, or trusted adults regarding healthy nutrition and physical activity choices.* | Analyze positive strategies to communicate healthy eating and physical activity needs at home, at school, and in the community.* <br> Practice how to refuse lessnutritious foods in social settings.* <br> Describe examples of communication techniques to ensure safe, healthy foods are available in our environment. |

## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

> Overarching Health Education Standard 5, Decision Making:
> All students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

## Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 5:

$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to optimize food choices and health outcomes.

| K | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Describe ways to participate regularly in active play and enjoyable physical activities.* <br> Name or show foods that are favorites to eat. | Use a decision-making process to select healthy foods.* <br> Compare and contrast | Describe how to use a decision-making process to select nutritious foods and beverages.* | Use a decision-making process to identify healthy foods for meals and snacks.* | Use a decision-making process to evaluate daily food intake for meeting nutritional requirements.* | Analyze how nutritional needs are affected by age, gender, activity level, pregnancy, and health status.* <br> Use a decision-making process to plan nutritionally adequate meals at home and away from home.* <br> Assess the advantages and disadvantages of daily multiple vitamin and mineral supplements. <br> Demonstrate how to use safe food handling procedures when preparing meals and snacks.* |
|  | healthy and less-healthy food choices for a variety of settings.* | Compare nutritional values of a variety of similar food items. <br> Describe how to use a | Use a decision-making process to determine activities that increase physical fitness.* | (Identify recreational activities that increase physical activity.) <br> Contrast healthy and risky |  |
|  |  | decision-making process to select healthy options for physical activity.* | Compare personal eating and physical activity patterns with current ageappropriate guidelines.* | approaches to weight management.* |  |
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## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

## Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 6:

$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance nutrition and health.

| K | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
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| Set a goal to use manners when consuming meals at school. | Set a short-term goal to choose healthy foods for snacks and meals.* | Make a plan to choose healthy foods and beverages.* | Monitor personal progress toward a nutritional goal.* | Make a personal plan for improving one's nutrition and incorporating physical activity into daily routines.* | Assess one's personal nutrition needs and physical activity level.* <br> Develop practical solutions for removing barriers to healthy eating and physical activity.* <br> Create a personal nutrition and physical activity plan based on current guidelines.* |

## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

> Overarching Health Education Standard 7, Practicing health-enhancing behaviors:
> All students will demonstrate the ability to practice behaviors that reduce risk and promote health.

## Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 7:

$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to practice nutrition-related behaviors that reduce risk and promote health.

| K | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Select nutritious snacks.* Plan a nutritious breakfast.* | Examine the importance of eating a nutritious breakfast every day.* | Practice how to take personal responsibility for eating healthy foods.* | Identify ways to choose healthy snacks based on current research-based guidelines.* | Develop a menu that meets the recommendations of the current USDA guide for daily food choices. | Select healthy foods and beverages in a variety of settings.* |
| Choose healthy foods in a variety of settings.* | Plan a nutritious meal.* <br> Select healthy beverages.* | Practice how to take personal responsibility for limiting sugar consumption in foods, snacks, and | Demonstrate how to prepare a healthy meal or snack using sanitary food | Make healthy food choices in a variety of settings.* | Design menus based of food guidelines according to age, gender, and activity level. |
| Demonstrate hand washing before handling or eating foods. | Examine the criteria for choosing a nutritious snack.* | beverages.* <br> Identify ways to establish and maintain healthy eating | preparation and storage practices.* <br> Demonstrate the ability to | Develop a plan for making informed decisions about food choices using the food cycle. | Demonstrate the use of the Dietary Reference Intakes to assess dietary quality. |
|  | and use the current USDA guide for daily food choices to classify food groups selected. | current research-based guidelines for a nutritionally balanced diet.* | physical activity.* <br> Practice using the nutrition facts label and product | Explain proper food handling safety when preparing meals and snacks.* | Critique one's personal diet for overall balance of key nutrients. |
|  | *Participate in physical activities with friends and family. | Demonstrate the preparation of a nutritious snack.. | ingredient list on food products and explain how the information provided may help make food choices. | Use unit pricing to select the healthiest foods at the most economic prices. | Identify strategies for eating more fruits and vegetables.* <br> Describe how to take mor |
|  | Demonstrate safe practices for handling and preparing foods at school. |  |  | Demonstrate food preparation skills to enhance the appeal, taste, and nutritional value of foods. | personal responsibility for eating healthy foods.* <br> Participate in school and community activities that promote fitness and health.* |
|  |  |  |  |  | Demonstrate ways to purchase healthy foods within budget constraints. |

## Nutrition Education Competencies Aligned with the California Health Education Content Standards

> Overarching Health Education Standard 8, Health Promotion:
> All students will demonstrate the ability to promote and support personal, family, and community health.

## Corresponding Overarching Nutrition Education Competency 8:

$\Rightarrow$ All students will demonstrate the ability to promote and support a sustainable, nutritious food supply and healthy lifestyles for families and communities.

| K | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prepare a healthy snack.. <br> Practice selecting foods that are in season.. <br> Identify and try a new fruit or vegetable. | Practice making healthy eating choices with friends and family.* <br> Practice selecting a food that is grown locally. | Support others in making positive food and physical activity choices.* | Encourage and promote healthy eating and increased physical activity opportunities at school and in the community.* <br> Use different cultural traditions to plan meals. | Encourage nutrient-dense food choices in school.* <br> Evaluate various approaches to maintaining a healthy weight.* <br> Support increased opportunities for physical activity at school and in the community.* <br> Encourage peers to eat healthy foods and to be physically active.* <br> Explain how our food choices influence the food supply of the future. <br> Educate family and peers about the advantages of selecting locally grown, seasonal foods. | Advocate for enhanced nutritional options in the school and community.* <br> Educate family and peers about choosing healthy foods.* <br> Examine who makes food policy and how consumers may influence food policy. <br> Develop an action plan to increase awareness of the local, national, or global factors that influence the quantity and quality of food. <br> Describe an example of a nutritional problem in another country and a possible solution. <br> Discuss methods consumers may use to influence the food industry. <br> Examine who makes food policy and how consumers may influence food policy. |

