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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 897

02/16/2015 Authored by Davnie, Winkler, Wagenius, Persell, Ward and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Innovation Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to education; requiring school districts to adopt a policy on recess  
1.3 for elementary school students; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section  
1.4 121A.215.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **PURPOSE.**

1.7 The legislature finds that students at the elementary level must have the opportunity  
1.8 to participate in daily recess. The legislature also finds that recess provides children with  
1.9 unstructured time to engage in physical activity that helps to develop healthy minds and  
1.10 bodies. As childhood obesity rates rise, it is important to ensure that children have the  
1.11 time for physical activity. Insufficient physical activity and excessive calories consumed is  
1.12 well-known as a critical factor for this alarming increase in overweight and obese children.  
1.13 As Minnesota strives to be the healthiest state in the nation, we must continue to encourage  
1.14 our children to engage in physical activity so they can develop a healthy mind and body.

1.15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 121A.215, is amended to read:

1.16 **121A.215 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICIES; RECESS;**  
1.17 **WEB SITE.**

1.18 When available, a school district must post its current local school wellness policy  
1.19 on its Web site. A school district must have a policy on the total number of minutes of  
1.20 recess each day for its students in kindergarten through grade 5.