Wellness Policy Assessment Tool

Form 357 Rev 8/17

This template provides information on wellness policy goals and practices within the SFA. Use this tool to track progress and gather ideas on ways to create a healthier school environment. A separate assessment should be completed for each school, or at a minimum, each school level. The wellness policy and completed assessment must be available to the public. Triennial assessment is required by USDA, annual assessments are strongly encouraged in New Jersey.

SFA/Dis	strict Na	me Warren Glen Academy Policy Reviewer Dr. Randy Pratt					
School N	lame	Warren Glen Academy Date 6 1 2024					
Select all	grade						
Yes	No O	I. Public Involvement We encourage the following to participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of our wellness policy: ✓ Administrators ✓ School Food Service Staff ✓ P.E. Teachers ✓ Parents ✓ School Board Members ✓ School Health Professionals ✓ Students ✓ Public					
0	0	Person in charge of compliance:					
		Name/Title: Dr. Randy Pratt, Executive Director					
0	0	The policy is made available to the public.					
		Indicate How: on our website					
0	0	Our policy goals are measured and the results are communicated to the public.					
		Please describe: on our website					
0	Our district completes triennial reviews of the wellness policy. If more frequently, please describe:						
Yes	No	II. Nutrition Education					
•••	0	Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for nutrition education.					
	0	We offer standards based nutrition education in a variety of subjects (e.g. science, health, math, etc).					
	0	We offer nutrition education to students in:					
Yes	No	III. Nutrition Promotion					
0	0	Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for nutrition promotion.					
0	0	We promote healthy eating and nutrition education with signage, use of creative menus, posters, bulletin boards, etc.					
•	0	We have reviewed Smarter Lunchroom techniques and evaluated our ability to implement some of them.					
0	0	We place fruits and vegetables where they are easy to access (e.g. near the cafeteria cashier or near the front of the lir					
\odot	0	We ensure students have access to hand-washing facilities prior to meals.					
0	•	We annually evaluate how to market and promote our school meal program(s).					
•	0	We regularly share school meal nutrition, calorie, and sodium content information with students and families.					
0	0	We offer taste testing or menu planning opportunities to our students.					
0	0	We participate in Farm to School activities and/or have a school garden.					
0	0	We only advertise and promote nutritious foods and beverages on school grounds (e.g. buildings, playing fields, etc).					
We price nutritious foods and beverages lower than less nutritious foods and beverages.							
0	0	We offer fruits or non-fried vegetables in: Vending Machines School Stores Snack Bars à La Cart					
\odot	0	We have nutritional standards for foods/beverages served at school parties, celebrations, events, etc.					
0	We provide teachers with samples of alternative reward options other than food or beverages.						
•	\circ	We prohibit the use of food and beverages as a reward.					

Yes	No	V. Nutrition Guidelines (Cont. from page 1)					
O	0	Our district's written wellness policy addresses nutrition standards for	USDA reimbursa	ble meals.			
	•	We operate the School Breakfast Program: Before School	In the Classroo	m Grab & Go			
\odot	0	We follow all nutrition regulations for the National School Lunch Progra	am (NSLP).				
0	•	We operate an Afterschool Snack Program.					
0	\odot	We operate the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.					
\odot	0	We have a Certified Food Handler as our Food Service Manager.					
\circ	()	We have adopted and implemented Smart Snacks nutrition standards f	for ALL items sol	d during school hours, including:			
		as à La Carte Offerings in School Stores in Vending N	/lachines	as Fundraisers			
Yes	No	V. Physical Activity					
0	00000000	Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for phy	sical activity.				
•		We provide physical education for elementary students on a weekly basis.					
0		We provide physical education for middle school during a term or semester.					
•		We require physical education classes for graduation (high schools only).					
()		We provide recess for elementary students on a daily basis.					
0		We provide opportunities for physical activity integrated throughout the day.					
O		We prohibit staff and teachers from keeping kids in from recess for punitive reasons.					
O		Teachers are allowed to offer physical activity as a reward for students.					
\circ	\odot	We offer before or after school physical activity:	orts Non-o	competitive sports Other clubs			
		Onal Info: Indicate any additional wellness practices and/or future goals students' health, well-being, and ability to learn. Describe progress					
		tact Information:					
or more	e intori	mation about this school's wellness policy/practices, or ways to get involv	ved, contact the	Wellness Committee Coordinator,			
Name	Dr. I	Randy Pratt	Position/Title	Executive Director			
Email	rpra	tt@warrenglenacademy.com	Phone	908-995-1999 x 104			

Warren Glen Academy Wellness Manual

2024-2027

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Warren Glen Academy Wellness Manual

Preamble

Warren Glen Academy is committed to the optimal development of every student. Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during, and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students. 8,9,10 In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education, and extracurricular activities – do better academically. 11,12,13,14

This manual outlines the School's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial marketing distractions. Specifically, this manual establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the School have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active during school hours;
- The School engages in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The larger community is engaged in supporting the work of the School in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The School establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of wellness and its established goals and objectives.

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

Warren Glen Academy will convene a representative district wellness committee/school health committee (DWC/SHC) that meets at least twice per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness manual.

The DWC/SHC membership will represent all school levels and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition

program (ex., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (ex., health education teachers, school health services staff [i.e., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services], and mental health and social services staff [i.e., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists]; school administrators (ex., director, principal, vice principal), school board members; and health professionals (ex., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists).

Leadership

The Director or designee(s) will convene the DWC/SHC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness manual, and will ensure the school's compliance with the manual.

Name	Title	Email address	Role
Randy Pratt	Executive Director	rpratt@warrenglenacademy.com	Director
Joan Holland	School Nurse	nurse@warrenglenacademy.com	Nurse
Meghan Dragotta	School Social Worker	mdragotta@warrenglenacademy.com	Social Worker
Debbie Welch	Administrative Secretary	dwelch@warrenglenacademy.com	Secretary
Brain Crawford	Maschio Food School Services	bcrawford@maschiofood.com	General Manager

II. Wellness Manual Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, and Engagement

Implementation Plan

Warren Glen Academy will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness manual. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and timelines specific to the school, and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where, and when, as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing restrictions, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. It is recommended that the school use the Health Index, create an action plan that fosters guideline implementation.

Recordkeeping

Warren Glen Academy will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness manual in the Main Office and/or Nurse's Office and/or on the School's computer network. Documentation maintained in this location may include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness manual;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including (1) Efforts to actively solicit DWC/SHC membership from the required stakeholder groups; and (2) These groups' participation in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy;
- Documentation of annual progress reports for the school; and
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with notification requirements, including: (1)
 Methods by which the wellness policy, and annual progress reports, are made available; and
 (2) Efforts to actively notify families about the availability of wellness policy.

Annual Progress Reports

Warren Glen Academy will compile and publish an annual report to share basic information about the wellness manual and report on the progress of the Warren Glen Academy in meeting wellness objectives. This annual report will be published around the same time each year in June and will include information from Warren Glen Academy. This report will include, but is not limited to:

- The website address for the wellness manual;
- A description of the school's progress in meeting the wellness objectives;
- A summary of the school's events or activities related to wellness implementation;
- The name, position title, and contact information of the designated District policy leader(s) identified in Section I; and
- Information on how individuals can become involved with the DWC/SHC.

Warren Glen Academy will actively notify households/families of the availability of the annual report either in its Pupil and Parent Handbook or on its web-site. The annual report will be available in the main office and/or Nurse's Office

The DWC/SHC, will establish and monitor goals and objectives for the School, specific and appropriate for each instructional unit (elementary or secondary OR elementary, middle, and high school, as appropriate), for each of the content-specific components listed in Sections III-V of this manual.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, the School will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the manual and include:

- The extent to which Warren Glen Academy is in compliance with the wellness manual;
- The extent to which the School's wellness manual compares to trends in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness standards; and
- A review of the progress made in attaining the objectives of the School's wellness manual.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is the school nurse.

The DWC/SHC and school nurse will monitor the schools' compliance with this wellness manual.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The DWC/SHC will update or modify the wellness manual based on the results of the annual progress reports and triennial assessments, and/or as the School's priorities change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness manual will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.

Involvement, Outreach, and Communications

Warren Glen Academy is committed to being responsive to input, which begins with awareness of the wellness manual. Warren Glen Academy will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC/SHC and others can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness manual through a variety of means appropriate for the school. Warren Glen Academy will inform parents of improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards and availability of child nutrition programs if applicable. Warren Glen Academy may use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on Warren Glen Academy's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness manual, as well as how to get involved and support this effort. Warren Glen Academy will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate and accomplished through means similar to other ways that Warren Glen Academy is communicating other important school information with parents.

III. Nutrition

School Meals

Our school is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meet the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Warren Glen Academy participates in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program. Warren Glen Academy also operates additional nutrition-related programs and activities including a *school garden*. Warren Glen Academy is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP program, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;

- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (Warren Glen Academy offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following <u>Smarter</u>
 Lunchroom techniques:
 - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily
 - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names
 - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab and go meals available to students
 - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal
 - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers
 - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas
 - Student artwork may be displayed in the service and/or dining areas
 - Announcements are used to promote and market menu options
 - Menus will be posted on Warren Glen Academy website and will include nutrient content and ingredients.
 - Menus will be created/reviewed by a Registered Dietitian or other certified nutrition professional.
 - School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
 - Warren Glen Academy's child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
 - Students will be allowed at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they
 have received their meal and are seated. Students are served lunch at a reasonable and
 appropriate time of day.
 - Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.
 - Additionally:
 - Warren Glen Academy will implement Farm to School activities such as;
 - Local and/or regional products are incorporated into the school meal program;
 - Messages about agriculture and nutrition are reinforced throughout the learning environment;
 - School hosts a school garden;
 - School hosts field trips to local farms; and
 - School utilizes promotions or special events, such as tastings, that highlight the local/ regional products.]

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the <u>USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals</u>. These school nutrition personnel will refer to <u>USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website</u> to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day* and throughout every school campus* ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). Warren Glen Academy will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. In addition, students will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

Warren Glen Academy is committed to ensuring that foods and beverages available to students on the school campus* during the school day* support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (i.e., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information are available at:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks.

Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus* during the school day*. Warren Glen Academy will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff and teachers, parents, students, and the community.

Warren Glen Academy will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using <u>Smarter Lunchroom techniques</u>; and
- Promoting foods and beverages that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional possible promotion techniques that Warren Glen Academy and individual schools may use are available at www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks.

Nutrition Education

Warren Glen Academy aims to teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;

- Include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Link with school meal programs and school gardens;

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

Warren Glen Academy may include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- The relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from MyPlate
- Reading and using USDA's food labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain trans fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

<u>USDA's Team Nutrition</u> provides free nutrition education and promotion materials, including standards-based nutrition education curricula and lesson plans, posters, interactive games, menu graphics, and more.

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

Warren Glen Academy is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial marketing distractions. Warren Glen Academy strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on School property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information Warren Glen Academy is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts.

IV. Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive, school-based physical activity program (CSPAP) that includes these components: physical education, recess, classroom-based physical activity, walk and bicycle to school, and out-of-school time activities and Warren Glen Academy is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education. Warren Glen Academy encourages participation in *Let's Move!* Active Schools (www.letsmoveschools.org).

To the extent practicable, Warren Glen Academy will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. Warren Glen Academy will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Physical Education

Warren Glen Academy will provide all students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. Warren Glen Academy will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

Warren Glen Academy physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity observation and/or assessments.

Topics in Health Education

Warren Glen Academy may include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise, and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout, and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia, and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time, and type
 of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan

- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity

Recess

When possible the school will offer at least 20 minutes of recess on all or most days during the school year.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play. Outdoor recess can include days there has been snowfall and students have the opportunity to enjoy snow activities (i.e. sleighs). Students must be properly dressed for such conditions.

In the event that the school must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess aides and/or teachers will encourage students to be active and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Physical Activity Breaks

Warren Glen Academy recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week.

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into "core" subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies, and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

Warren Glen Academy will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

Warren Glen Academy will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues, and physical activity facilities. Warren Glen Academy will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development, and strong educational outcomes.

Warren Glen Academy is encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state, or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness manual, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the DWC/SHC.

Partnerships

Warren Glen Academy will continue relationships with community partners (i.e. hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, etc.) in support of this wellness manual implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness manual and its objectives.

Community Health Promotion and Engagement

Warren Glen Academy will promote to parents/caregivers, and families the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

Professional Learning

When feasible, Warren Glen Academy will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help school staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

Appendix

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