The Model for Healthy Body Image© Developed by Kathy J. Kater, LICSW

Conceptual Building Blocks	Foundation	Desired Outcome	Goal
Developmental change is inevitable. Normal changes of puberty include weight gain and temporary out-of-proportion growth; fat does not by itself define "overweight." Genetics and other internal weight regulators strictly limit the degree to which shape, weight & Body Mass Index can be manipulated through healthy means. Restricted or restrained hunger (dieting) results in predictable consequences that are counterproductive to weight loss and interfere with normal hunger regulation.	Recognize and respect basic biology; understand what cannot be controlled about size, shape and hunger.	Accept the innate body: "This is the body I was born to have."	Healthy Body Image
Balance attention to <i>many</i> aspects of identity. Looks are only one part. Consistently satisfy hunger with <i>enough</i> varied, wholesome food in a stable, predictable manner. Limit sedentary choices to promote a physically active lifestyle at all ages. Choose role models that reflect a realistic standard.	Emphasize what can be influenced or chosen.	Enjoy eating for health, energy, and hunger satisfaction. Create a physically active lifestyle for fitness, endurance, fun, relaxation and stress relief.	Prevention of Unhealthy and Disordered Eating
Promote historical perspective on today's cultural attitudes related to body image. Teach critical thinking about media messages that influence body image. Support others in resisting unhealthy norms about weight, dieting, low nutrient food choices, eating for entertainment, and sedentary entertainment.	Develop social and cultural resiliency.	Develop autonomy, self esteem, confidence, and the ability for critical thinking.	