

KANSAS



Amount of Required Physical Education: The state requires all schools to offer,¹¹⁵ but does not require students (in any grades K-12) to take, physical education. High school students must earn physical education credit for graduation.

Physical Education Equipment and Facilities: The state does not annually assess the availability of appropriate equipment and adequate facilities for students to engage required physical education instruction.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 1.0 physical education (which is to include health) credit for graduation.¹¹⁶

Substitutions: The state does not permit school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities, including “athletic practice” for required physical education credit.¹¹⁷

Exemptions/Waivers: The state does not permit schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from the state physical education requirements. Students may apply for an exemption from the physical education requirement for medical reasons or religious beliefs.¹¹⁸

Physical Activity: The state does not require elementary schools to provide daily recess, and it does not require a minimum weekly amount of physical education for elementary, middle school/junior high, or high school students. Physical activity time is covered in School Wellness Policy Model Guidelines. Classroom physical activity breaks are not required. The state does not prohibit the use of withholding physical activity, including recess, as punishment for disciplinary reasons, nor does it prohibit using physical activity as punishment for inappropriate behavior.

Local School Wellness Policy: The state requires schools or school districts to provide their local school wellness policy to the state education agency and to post it online for the public. The state monitors the implementation of local school wellness policies.

State Standards: The state has adopted standards for physical education, though school districts are not required to comply. [The Kansas Physical Education Standards](#) were last revised in 2005.

Areas addressed in the state standards include:

National Standard 1: Competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns

National Standard 2: Knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance

National Standard 3: Knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness

National Standard 4: Responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others

National Standard 5: Value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and/or social interaction

State Curriculum: The state does not require the use of specific curricula for elementary, middle school/junior high or high school physical education, but it requires that curricula be revised every seven years. It has not promoted curriculum tools to schools or school district in the past year, nor the use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT).

State Funding for Physical Education Programs: General education funding is available for the state’s physical education programs in school districts and schools. The state statute allows the board of education of any school district to purchase specialized clothing and towels for use in physical education, but does not specify what funds may be used.¹¹⁹

Class Size: The state does not have a required student-teacher ratio for academic classes or physical education.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The state requires physical education grades to be included in a student’s GPA.

Online Physical Education Courses: The state allows students to earn required physical education credits through online physical education courses.

Student Assessment Requirements: The state does not require student assessment related to state physical education standards.

Fitness Assessment: The state does not require student physical fitness assessment.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state does not require schools to collect student BMI or height and weight.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers: The state requires physical education teachers to be state certified/licensed and endorsed to teach physical education at the elementary, middle school/junior high and high school levels, and to teach and online physical education courses. It also requires physical education teachers to pass a physical education certificate/licensure exam (Praxis) before they are endorsed to teach physical education. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) are not allowed to teach required elementary school physical education classes.

Professional Development of Physical Education

Teachers: Professional development is required in order to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure. The state does not provide professional development events or funding specifically for physical education teachers.

Teacher Evaluation: The state does not have a teacher evaluation system for all teachers.

National Board Certification: The state does not actively promote or encourage teachers to register for the National Board Certification process, nor does it provide mentoring or funding support, or any type of monetary compensation, for physical education teachers going through the process.

District Physical Education Coordinator: The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a physical education coordinator. It does not have designated staffing to oversee implementation, compliance, technical assistance, or monitoring of physical education programs in school districts and schools.

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115 Kan. Admin. Regs. § 91-31-32 (2015).

116 Kan. Admin. Regs. § 91-31-35 (2015).

117 Kan. Admin. Regs. § 91-31-34 (2016).

118 Kan. Admin. Regs. § 91-31-35 (2015).

119 Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-5389 (2015).