

FLORIDA



Amount of Required Physical Education: The state requires student to take 150 minutes per week of physical education (with a minimum of 30 consecutive minutes any day physical education instruction is provided) for grades K-5 and for students in grade 6 who are enrolled in a school with one or more elementary grades. The state requires one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year for students enrolled in grades 6 through 8, but does not specify number of minutes per week.⁶⁶ High schools are required to provide students with physical education and students must earn physical education credit for graduation.⁶⁷ The physical education programs and curricula must be reviewed by a certified physical education instructor, and student participation in physical education must be reported through periodic surveys showing enrollment numbers.⁶⁸

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

High School Graduation Requirements: State law requires students to complete 1.0 credit in physical education. Physical education must include the integration of health.⁶⁹

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute one-half credit or one full credit of the required physical education with the following activities⁷⁰:

One credit of physical education:

- Interscholastic sports at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons, along with passage of the department of education's competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or better
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) class for two years

One-half credit of physical education:

- Marching band class, dance class, or physical activity class for one semester with a grade of "C" or better

Exemptions/Waivers: The state does not permit schools and school districts to apply for a waiver from the state physical education requirements. The requirements for grades K-5 and 6-8 shall be waived for students who are enrolled or required to

enroll in a remedial course or for a student whose parent indicates in writing that the student satisfies the requirement with another acceptable option.⁷¹

Physical Activity: The state does not require elementary schools to provide daily recess, and it does not require a minimum weekly amount of physical activity time for elementary, middle school/junior high, or high school students. 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 each school district to electronically submit its local school wellness policy to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and to annually review the policy and provide a procedure for public input and revisions. When revisions are made, districts must provide the revised policy to the Department.⁷² Local school wellness policies also must be posted online, making them available to the public. The state does not monitor local school wellness policy implementation.

State Standards: The state has adopted standards for physical education, last revised in 2013.

Areas addressed in the 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 schools or school districts to use a specific curriculum, but physical education curriculum must be reviewed and/or revised every six years. The state has distributed student learning benchmarks and lesson

plans or learning activities for physical education to schools or school districts. It has also promoted the use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) through state communication networks.

State Funding for Physical Education Programs: General education funding is available for the state's physical education programs in school districts and schools. Funding is provided on a per student basis. Each site-based administrator determines funding allocations within the school. Funding is allowed to be used at the discretion of school administrators. No additional funding is available for physical education programs.

Class Size: The state's required student-teacher ratio for academic classes is not applicable to physical education.

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

Online Physical Education Courses: Online coursework is required for graduation. Physical education credits may be (but are not required to be) earned through online coursework.⁷³

Student Assessment Requirements: The state requires student assessment related to state physical education standards. Student assessment is required in grades 1-12, based on the state standards listed above. Results are used for local school district decision making and are not used at the state level.

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

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state requires schools to collect BMI data in grades 1, 3, and 6. The state provides model policies, policy guidance, or other materials to inform school or district policy on screening for student weight status or BMI. Districts must report data to the department of health, and each district determines if data are also shared with parents.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers:

The state requires physical education teachers to be certified/licensed and endorsed to teach physical education at the high school level. In addition, only state certified or licensed teachers

endorsed to teach physical education can teach online physical education courses. It also requires physical education teachers to pass a physical education certificate or licensure exam before they are endorsed to teach. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) are 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, and this professional development does not have to be on physical education topics. The state provides professional development events for physical education teachers.

Teacher Evaluation: The state has 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 certified/licensed physical educator serving as a physical education coordinator. However, it does have designated staffing (<1.0 FTE) to oversee implementation, compliance, technical assistance, and monitoring of physical education programs in school districts and schools.

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