



## National Association for Sport and Physical Education

an association of the American Alliance for Health,  
Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

### **NASPE Sets the Standard**

1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 20191

**Phone:** 703-476-3410

**Fax:** 703-476-8316

**Email:** [naspe@aahperd.org](mailto:naspe@aahperd.org)

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor on the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

NASPE applauds the U.S. Department of Education for its efforts to improve the educational environment for our nation's 90 million students. In his introduction to *A Blueprint for Reform*, President Obama said, "We must ensure that every student graduates from high school well prepared for college and a career." We agree. According to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), "A strong foundation in reading, writing, math, and other core subjects is as important as ever, yet insufficient for lifelong success." Thus, a whole child approach is needed, one that promotes the development of children who are "healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged." Indeed, the *Blueprint* addresses the idea of keeping students "safe, supported and healthy....", and a critical component of being healthy is being physically educated. NASPE recommends including physical education as a core subject in the ESEA in order to obtain this goal.

Inclusion within ESEA of the provisions of the FIT Kids Act (HR 1585) would help to create great teachers and leaders in every school, by providing professional development for teachers, as well as information and instruction for principals and classroom teachers on ways to increase physical activity throughout the school day. It would also encourage the hiring of teachers who are certified to teach physical education.

The Department of Education's goal of improving outcomes for students is also admirable. There is substantial evidence that physical activity can help improve academic achievement including grades and standardized test scores. Therefore, increasing or maintaining time dedicated to physical education may help impact academic performance. This is critical in any effort to provide equity and opportunity for all students. Physical Education in schools is for every child, but not every child has access to private physical activity, sport lessons, clubs or teams.

Raising the bar and rewarding excellence through reform cannot happen without benchmarks from which to measure improvement. Incorporation of the provisions in the FIT Kids Act (HR 1585), that require schools to report on the quantity and quality of physical education, would provide just such benchmarks.

A proven and sustainable method for promoting innovation in physical education would be to maintain the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) as a stand-alone grant program, with minimum funding of \$100 million per year. Successful physical education programs around the country have been initiated, expanded and improved with PEP grants.

We would be happy to meet with Committee members and/or staff, and testify before the Committee if invited.

About NASPE: NASPE is the preeminent national authority on physical education and is a recognized leader in sport and physical activity. NASPE is a non-profit, professional membership association that sets the standard for practice in physical education and sport. Its 15,000 members include K-12 physical education teachers, coaches, athletic directors, athletic trainers, sport management professionals, researchers and college and university faculty who prepare physical activity professionals. It is the largest of the five national associations that make up the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Sincerely,



Charlene R. Burgeson  
Executive Director