



Amount of Required Physical Education: New York mandates at least 120 minutes of physical education per week in grades K-6, but does not require daily recess. Students in grades K-3 must have daily physical education, and students in grades 4-6 must have physical education at least three times per week. The state also mandates at least 90 minutes per week of physical education in grades 7-12 and requires all schools, including high schools, to provide physical education to all students. At the secondary level, this must be provided at least three times per week in one semester and two times per week in the other semester.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 2.0 physical education credits for graduation.

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute interscholastic sports for their required physical education credits. However, each student must first demonstrate appropriate levels of knowledge, skills and physical fitness.

Exemptions/Waivers: Exemptions are not allowed. However, a student who has completed all other requirements to graduate in less than eight semesters does not have to return to complete the remaining physical education requirement.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The Learning Standards of New York State: Physical Education Learning Standards were last revised in 1996, and is currently cycling through reviews. [See State Standards for Physical Education chart for details.]

State Curriculum: The state does not require the use of specific curricula for elementary, middle school/junior high or high school physical education. School districts have the option of using any curriculum, including commercial options, which meet specific guidelines set by the state.

Class Size: The state does not specify a teacher-to-student ratio.

© 2010, National Association for Sport and Physical Education and the American Heart Association,
<http://www.naspeinfo.org/shapeofthenation> • 1900 Association Drive • Reston, VA 20190, U.S.

(703) 476-3410 • Fax (703) 476-8316 • E-mail naspe@aahperd.org

Reproduction for media and classroom use with attribution is permissible. For all other permission requests please contact naspepermissions@aahperd.org

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

Online Physical Education Courses: The state does not allow required physical education credits to be earned through online physical education courses.

Student Assessment Requirements: The state requires student assessment in physical education every year in grades 1-12, evaluating performance of motor/movement skills, physical fitness levels, knowledge of physical education content, participation in physical activity outside of physical education class, and personal and social responsibility in physical education.

Fitness Testing: The state does not require the use of a particular fitness test protocol.

State Comprehensive Assessment Test: The state has an optional, not required, comprehensive assessment test for graduation.

Education Report Card: The state has an education report card for each school, but physical education is not included as one of the subject areas.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state requires schools to collect students' BMI or height and weight, with results sent to the Department of Health. BMI collection is under the direction of school health services and not physical education. It is just being initiated for grades 2, 4, 7 and 10 and in public schools outside of New York City.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers: The state requires certification or licensure of physical education teachers at the middle school/junior high and high school levels. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) may teach required elementary school physical education classes under the direction and supervision of a certified physical education teacher. A licensure exam is required for certification.

Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers: New York has two certifications: Initial (must achieve a MS within five years of their BS); and Professional (continuously valid with completion of required professional development hours on a five-year professional-development cycle). For the latter, professional development continuing education hours or credits are required in order to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure. State funding is not provided for this professional development.

National Board Certification (NBC): The state does not actively encourage physical education teachers to become certified through the NBC process.

District Physical Education Coordinator: The state requires each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a PE coordinator. This coordinator must also have administrative certification.

Contact Person:

© 2010, National Association for Sport and Physical Education and the American Heart Association,
<http://www.naspeinfo.org/shapeofthenation> • 1900 Association Drive • Reston, VA 20190, U.S.

(703) 476-3410 • Fax (703) 476-8316 • E-mail naspe@aahperd.org

Reproduction for media and classroom use with attribution is permissible. For all other permission requests please contact naspepermissions@aahperd.org

Trish Kocialski
Associate in Physical Education
NYSED – Room 320EB
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
518-474-5922
pkocials@mail.nysed.gov

© 2010, National Association for Sport and Physical Education and the American Heart Association,
<http://www.naspeinfo.org/shapeofthenation> • 1900 Association Drive • Reston, VA 20190, U.S.

(703) 476-3410 • Fax (703) 476-8316 • E-mail naspe@aahperd.org

Reproduction for media and classroom use with attribution is permissible. For all other permission requests please
contact naspepermissions@aahperd.org

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