



Amount of Required Physical Education: Missouri requires all school districts to implement a minimum of 150 minutes of physical activity each week for elementary students (grades K-6). The state-mandated 50 minutes of physical education per week and mandated 20-minute daily recess may both count toward this 150-minute total. Schools report the amount of physical education time that they offer students in elementary school in the state's Core Data reporting system.

The state also mandates at least 45 minutes per week of physical education in grades 7-8, and encourages districts to implement at least 225 minutes of physical activity per week at this level. The state also requires high schools to provide physical education to students.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 1.0 physical education credit for graduation.

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute JROTC for their required physical education credit at the high school level.

Exemptions/Waivers: Exemptions are not allowed.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The Grade Level Expectations for Physical Education were last revised in 2007. [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 a commercial curriculum as long as it adheres to the state standards.

Class Size: The state specifies a teacher-to-student ratio comparable to other curricular areas

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

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Student Assessment Requirements: The state requires student assessment in physical education in grades 5 and 9. Results are sent to the state as aggregate data for the school; it is expected that the state will soon require reporting of individual student physical fitness assessment scores.

Fitness Testing: The state requires the use of the Missouri Physical Fitness Assessment Model. Physical fitness grades also are included in a student's grade point average.

State Comprehensive Assessment Test: The state does not have a 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 does not require schools to collect students' BMI or height and weight.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers: The state requires certification or licensure of physical education teachers at the elementary, middle school/junior high and high school levels. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) may not teach required elementary school physical education classes. A score of 153 on the PRAXIS Physical Education Content Knowledge exam is required for certification.

Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers: 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 provided to each school district for professional development activities, but no additional funds are provided specifically for physical education teachers.

Temporary Certification: Temporary or emergency certification may be granted to teach at the elementary or middle school/junior high school level to anyone holding a bachelor's degree in teaching or education. This certification is valid for two years.

National Board Certification (NBC): The state actively encourages physical education teachers to become certified through the NBC process by providing one or more forms of non-monetary recognition for National Board-certified teachers.

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

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