



ARKANSAS

Amount of Required Physical Education: Arkansas mandates at least 60 minutes of physical education and instruction and 90 minutes of physical activity per week in grades K-6. The state also mandates that, in schools organized to teach grades 5-8, or any combination thereof, students must receive 60 minutes of physical education training and instruction each week or an equivalent amount in each school year. Students in grades 9-12 must earn 0.5 physical education credits as required for graduation. These requirements are enforced through the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 0.5 physical education credits for graduation.

Substitutions: The state permits schools to allow students to substitute an “organized physical activity course” for their required 0.5 physical education credits for graduation. The “organized physical activity course” must be taught by a licensed physical education instructor, aligned with the Arkansas Physical Education Curriculum Framework, and must be taught within the school day.

Exemptions/Waivers: Exemptions and waivers are not permitted.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The Arkansas Physical Education and Health Curriculum Frameworks were last revised in 2005. [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 and high school physical education. However, the state allows the local school district the option of using a curriculum based on the needs of the district.

Class Size: The state mandates a teacher-to-student ratio of 30:1 in grades K-6. In grades 7-12, physical education is considered a course that lends itself to large group instruction, therefore; teacher-to-student ratio is not applicable.

© 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: Physical Education is offered via distance learning (synchronous) for graduation credit.

Student Assessment Requirements: The state does not require student assessment in physical education.

Grade Point Average (GPA): Physical education grades are included in a student's overall GPA.

Fitness Testing: The Arkansas Physical Education Curriculum Frameworks does require students to participate in a nationally recognized health fitness assessment.

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 requires schools to collect students' BMI and/or height and weight in grades K, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Individual results and information on BMI are sent to the parent or guardian of each student.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers: The state requires a licensed physical education teacher at the middle school/junior high and high school levels. In grades K-6, a licensed and/or qualified physical education teacher must directly supervise physical education instruction.

Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers: All certified employees of public schools must complete 60 hours of approved professional development each year to maintain/renew their license.

Temporary Certification: Temporary/emergency teacher certification may be granted for up to one year to anyone holding a bachelor's degree in any subject area.

National Board Certification (NBC): The state actively encourages physical education teachers to become certified through the NBC process.

District Physical Education Coordinator: The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a PE coordinator.

Contact Person:

Debby Woods
 Coordinated School Health
 Arkansas Department of Education
 2020 West 3rd St., Suite 320
 Little Rock, AR 72205
 501-682-1311
 debby.woods@arkansas.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,