

ARIZONA

Amount of Required Physical Education: The state requires that students demonstrate competency in a number of required subject areas, including health/physical education, but does not specify grade levels or minutes per week, nor a requirement for high school graduation.⁵

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: The state does not have a requirement for the number of high school physical education credits needed for graduation.

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute interscholastic sports, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), marching band, or dance for physical education requirements.

Exemptions/Waivers: The state does not permit schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from the state physical education requirements. The state does permit flexibility in physical education activity requirements for students with chronic health problems so that they may participate to the extent that their condition permits.⁶ Students may apply for an exemption from participation in the physical education class time or required credit for their participation in other academic courses or Advanced Placement courses.

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; there is a written policy regarding physical activity time for students (Superintendent of Public Instruction Recommendation). 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 the use of physical activity as a form of punishment.

Local School Wellness Policy: The state requires schools or school districts to provide their local school wellness policy to the

state education agency and to post it online for the public. The state does not monitor the implementation of local school wellness policies.

State Standards: The state has adopted standards for physical education, with which all school districts are required to comply. [The Arizona Physical Education Standards](#) were last revised in May 2015.

Areas addressed in the state 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 curricula for elementary, middle school/junior high and high school physical education. In the past year the state has distributed goals and objectives of physical education programs and a chart describing scope and sequence for physical education to schools and school districts. It has promoted the use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) through existing state communication networks.

State Funding for Physical Education Programs: School district appropriations fund the state's physical education programs in school districts and schools. No additional funding is available for physical education programs.

Class Size: The state does not have a required student-teacher ratio for academic classes or physical education.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The state does not require physical education grades to be included in a student's GPA.

Online Physical Education Courses: N/A

Student Assessment Requirements: The state does not require student assessment related to state physical education standards. The district instructional programs (including health/physical education) are to be included in an ongoing assessment of student progress toward meeting competency requirements.⁷

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

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state does not require schools to collect student BMI or height and weight.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers:

The state requires physical education teachers to be state certified/licensed and endorsed to teach physical education at the middle school/junior high and high school levels. The state does not require those who teach physical education to pass a physical education certificate/licensure exam before they are endorsed to teach physical education class. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) may teach required elementary school physical education classes.

Professional Development of Physical Education

Teachers: Professional development is required in order to maintain/renew one's teacher certification or licensure. The state does not require this professional development to be on physical education topics, and it does not provide professional development events or funding specifically for physical education teachers.

Teacher Evaluation: The state has a teacher evaluation system for all teachers, including physical education teachers.

National Board Certification: The state supports the National Board Certification process by actively promoting and encouraging teachers to register for the process.

District Physical Education Coordinator: The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a physical education coordinator. It does not have designated staffing to oversee implementation, compliance, technical assistance or monitoring of physical education programs in school districts and schools.

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5 Ariz. Admin. Code § 7-2-301 (2015).

6 Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-346 (2015).

7 Ariz. Admin. Code § 7-2-301 (2015).