

GEORGIA



Amount of Required Physical Education: The state requires students in grades K-5 to take 90 hours of health and physical education per year.⁷⁴ It requires middle/junior high and high schools to provide physical education, but does not have a requirement for the number of minutes.⁷⁵ Middle school/junior high students are not required to take physical education. High school students must earn physical education credit for graduation. The state board of education is responsible for coordinating physical education activities and requirements; the collection of specific accountability measures is not described in statute.⁷⁶

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 requires students to complete 1 course/unit in health and physical education for graduation.⁷⁷

Substitutions: The state permits the local board of education to approve the substitution of three units of credit in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) for required health and physical education credit.⁷⁸

Exemptions/Waivers: The state allows schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from the state physical education requirements. A waiver, effective for 7 years, may be granted by the state board of education as part of the state Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS/IE2) Partnership Contracts waiver. The state board of education is authorized to provide an exemption for students, including children of U.S. armed forces service members, who transfer from another state after having completed the year in which physical education is offered.⁷⁹

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. 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. It does not prohibit the use of physical activity as punishment for inappropriate behavior.

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. It 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 Georgia Physical Education Performance Standards](#) were last revised in 2009.

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 requires school districts and schools to use a curriculum aligned with the state standards⁸⁰ and revise the curriculum every six years. It requires a locally-developed curriculum for elementary schools and does not specify a required curriculum for middle/junior high or high schools. It has not promoted the use of curriculum tools to schools or school districts in the past year, nor the use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT).

State Funding for Physical Education Programs: General education funding is available for the state's physical education programs in school districts and schools. No additional funding is available for physical education programs. The state does require a certain percentage of local school system funds be used for student/teacher interaction (including physical education).⁸¹

Class Size: The state's maximum student-teacher ratio for physical education is 40:1.

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

Online Physical Education Courses: The state allows students to earn required physical education credits through online physical education courses.

Student Assessment Requirements: The state requires student assessment related to physical education for grades 1-12. Students are assessed in National Standard 3: Knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness. Aggregate school results data are sent to the state department of education, and individual results are sent to each student's parent/guardian.

Fitness Assessment: The state requires student physical fitness assessment in grades 1-12 using a method determined by the state department of education (currently FITNESSGRAM®). It is required that individual results are shared with each student's parent or guardian, and aggregate results with the State Board of Education.⁸² Data are also shared with the school district, the local department of health, and the state departments of education and health.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state requires schools to collect height and weight for each student in grades 1-12. The state provides model policies, policy guidance, or other materials to inform school or district policy on this screening. Results are included in a comprehensive report on Health-Related Fitness.

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. It also requires physical education teachers to pass a physical education certificate/

licensure exam before they are endorsed to teach physical education. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) are allowed to teach required elementary school physical education classes.

Professional Development of Physical Education

Teachers: Professional development is not required in order to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure. State funding is provided for professional development specifically for physical education teachers.

Teacher Evaluation: The state has a teacher evaluation system for all teachers.

National Board Certification: N/A

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 has designated staffing (<1.0 FTE) to oversee implementation, compliance, technical assistance, or monitoring of physical education programs in school districts and schools.

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74 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2.12 (2015).
75 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-142 (2015); Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-777 (2015); Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2.12 (2015).
76 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-777 (2015).
77 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-149.2 (2015); Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2.36 (2015); Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2-47 (2015); Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2-48 (2015).

78 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2-.48 (2015).
79 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-142 (2015).
80 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2.01 (2015).
81 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-5-1.29 (2015).
82 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-777 (2015).