

## PENNSYLVANIA



**Amount of Required Physical Education:** The state requires students to take physical education in grades K-12,<sup>269</sup> but does not have a requirement for the minimum number of minutes. It does not have a method for enforcing the physical education requirements.

**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 survey reported that the state does not have a requirement for the number of high school physical education credits needed for graduation. State law specifies that every student graduating must have 1.0 credit in health and physical education and that physical education shall be taught to every student yearly in grades 9-12.<sup>270</sup>

**Substitutions:** The state does not permit school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for required physical education credit.

**Exemptions/Waivers:** The state does not permit schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from state physical education requirements. Students may apply for an exemption from the regular required physical education credit for medical reasons. However, the physical education program must be adapted for students who are medically unable to participate in the regular physical education program.<sup>271</sup>

**Physical Activity:** The state does not require elementary schools to provide daily recess and 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. Local schools are responsible for determining policies regarding student physical activity time. The state does not prohibit the use of withholding physical activity, including recess, as punishment for disciplinary reasons, nor does it prohibit using physical activity as punishment for inappropriate behavior.

**Local School Wellness Policy:** The state does not require schools or school districts to provide their local school wellness policy to the state education agency nor 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.<sup>272</sup> [The standards](#) were last revised in 2002.

**Areas addressed in the 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 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 curriculum, but it must be aligned with state standards.<sup>273</sup> Local school districts decide how often the physical education curriculum is reviewed and/or revised. In the past year the state distributed goals and objectives of physical education programs, student learning benchmarks, a chart describing scope and sequence for physical education, and lesson plans or learning activities for physical education. The state has promoted use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) through participation in a Center for Disease Control and Prevention chronic disease prevention and school health promotion grant.

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

**Grade Point Average:** The state requires physical education grades to be included in a student's overall GPA.

**State Funding for Physical Education Programs:** General education funding is available for the state's physical education programs in school districts and schools. Additional funding is available from grants and fundraising. Local education agencies determine funding amounts, allocations, and permitted uses.

**Online Physical Education Courses:** N/A

**Student Assessment Requirements:** Local education agencies determine the policy regarding student assessment in physical education. The state requires student assessment in

grades 1-12 in the areas of National Standards 1, 2, and 5 listed above. Individual student results are sent to parents/guardians.

**Fitness Assessment:** The state does not require student physical fitness assessment. Any data collected are shared at the school level (e.g., to students, parents, principal) and with the school district.

**Body Mass Index (BMI):** The state requires schools to collect BMI and 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. BMI data are shared with individuals and family members.

#### **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 elementary, 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 not allowed to teach required elementary school physical education classes.

#### **Professional Development of Physical Education**

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

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

**National Board Certification:** The state supports the National Board Certification process by actively promoting and encouraging teachers to register for the process, providing or facilitating mentoring for teachers going through the process, and providing partial funding if the teacher receives board certification.

**District Physical Education Coordinator:** The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a physical education coordinator. The state 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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269 22 Pa. Code § 4.27 (2015); 24 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1511 (2015). 22 Pa. Code § 4.21 (2015); 22 Pa. Code § 4.22 (2015); 22 Pa. Code § 4.23 (2015); 22 Pa. Code § 57.31 (2015).

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273 22 Pa. Code § 4.21 (2015); 22 Pa. Code § 4.22 (2015); 22 Pa. Code § 4.23 (2015); 22 Pa. Code § 4.12 (2015); 24 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 15-1512.1 (2015).