Amount of Required Physical Education: Arizona mandates physical education for elementary and middle/junior high school, but does not dictate specific grades or minutes per week. Competency in health/physical education in K-8 is required, but is determined at the local level.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state does not mandate the number of high school physical education credits required for a student to graduate.

Exemptions/Waivers: The state does not have a policy on granting exemptions/waivers for school districts regarding physical education time or credit requirements.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, but school districts do not have to comply. The Arizona Physical Education Standards were last revised in 2009. [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. The state allows the local school system, individual schools and physical education teachers to use a commercial curriculum such as SPARK or CATCH.

Class Size: The state does not mandate a teacher-to-student ratio comparable to other curricular areas.

Online Physical Education Courses: The state does not have a policy on whether physical education credits may be earned through online physical education courses.

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

Fitness Testing: The state does not require the use of a particular fitness test protocol.

State Comprehensive Assessment Test: The state has a required comprehensive assessment test for graduation, but physical education is not measured in this test.
**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 only an Arizona teaching certificate for physical education teachers at the elementary, middle school/junior high and high school levels. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) may teach required elementary school physical education classes.

**Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers:**

Professional development, continuing education hours or credits are required in order to maintain/renew one’s teacher certification or licensure. No state funding is provided for this professional development.

**Temporary Certification:** Temporary/emergency teacher certification to teach physical education 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.

**Other Notes:** Currently providing professional development around physical education and standards through the coordinated school health approach.

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