



## CALIFORNIA

**Amount of Required Physical Education:** California mandates at least 200 minutes of physical education every 10 school days in grades 1-6, and also requires daily recess. The state also mandates at least 400 minutes every 10 school days of physical education in grades 7-8 and for all four years of high school. These requirements are enforced through California's Categorical Program Monitoring process.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** The state mandates that, to fulfill the requirement for high school graduation, students must take two years of physical education.

**Substitutions:** The state permits the local education agency to determine how each particular class, as conducted in its district, supports its course of study for grades 9-12.

**Exemptions/Waivers:** The governing board of a school district or the office of the county superintendent of schools may grant a temporary exemption to a student for a number of reasons, including illness or injury, if the student is enrolled for one-half or less of the work normally required of full-time pupils, or if the student is engaged in a regular school-sponsored interscholastic athletic program. Permanent exemptions may be granted by the same governing body if the student is age 16 or older and has been enrolled in grade 10 for one academic year or longer, is enrolled as a postgraduate pupil or is enrolled in a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp school where pupils are scheduled for recreation and exercise.

**State Standards:** The state has developed its own standards for physical education, although school districts are not required to comply. The Physical Education Framework for California Public Schools was 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. Local districts have the option of using a commercial curriculum.

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

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(703) 476-3410 • Fax (703) 476-8316 • E-mail [naspe@aahperd.org](mailto:naspe@aahperd.org)

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**Online Physical Education Courses:** The state does not allow required physical education credits to be earned through online physical education courses.

**Student Assessment Requirements:** The state requires student assessment in physical education in grades 5, 7 and 9. Results are sent to the state as congregate data for the school and for the district. Students also must be notified verbally or in writing of their individual results. The state requires the use of a physical fitness test to measure performance of motor/movement skills and physical fitness levels.

**Fitness Testing:** The state requires school districts/schools to assess students' physical fitness levels using the FITNESSGRAM physical fitness test.

**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 or height and weight in grades 5, 7 and 9. Results are sent to the state as congregate data for the school and for the district and may be shared publicly.

**Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers:** The state requires certification or licensure of 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:** No professional development continuing education hours or credits are required in order to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure.

**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. Eligible NBC teachers with approved applications submitted prior to April 2009 were eligible for up to \$20,000 over four years for teaching in high-need schools.

**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:** State coordination of physical education is shared by different offices and agencies. Certification is under the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Testing, standards and curriculum support is under the California Department of Education.

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**Contact Person:**

Jim Greco  
California Department of Education  
1430 N St., Suite 4309  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-323-6189  
jgreco@cde.ca.gov

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