Amount of Required Physical Education: Connecticut mandates physical education and daily recess in grades K-6, and high schools must provide physical education courses.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 1.0 physical education credit for graduation.

Substitutions: Substitution of other activities for physical education credit required for high school graduation is not permitted.

Exemptions/Waivers: Students need a physician’s written order for a medical exemption from high school physical education credit, and this medical exemption requires an appropriate alternative.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, although school districts are not required to comply. The Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework for Comprehensive School Health Education and Comprehensive Physical Education was last revised in 2006 and is based on national standards. [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 or high school physical education, but allows local school systems and individual schools the option of using a commercial curriculum such as SPARK or CATCH.

Class Size: The state mandates a teacher-to-student ratio comparable to other curricular areas.

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 for physical fitness in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10. The data are sent to the state as congregate data for the school and for the district.
**Fitness Testing:** The state requires school districts/schools to assess students’ physical fitness levels using The “Third Generation” Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment.

**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, and physical education is 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 certification or licensure of physical education teachers at the elementary, middle school/junior high and high school levels. Physical education is taught only by certified physical education teachers. For certification, teachers must earn a score of at least 154 on both the PRAXIS II Physical Education Content Knowledge; and the PRAXIS II Physical Education Movements Forms—Analysis and Design. This certification must be renewed every five years.

**Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers:** Professional development, continuing education hours or credits are required in order to maintain/renew one’s physical education teacher certification or licensure. No state funding is provided for this professional development.

**Temporary Certification:** Temporary/emergency teacher certification may be granted for less than one year to anyone holding a bachelor’s degree in any subject area.

**National Board Certification (NBC):** The state does not actively encourage 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:** Connecticut is a “local control” state, so in many of these areas, the state has recommendations for local districts and schools rather than requirements.

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