Amount of Required Physical Education: Illinois mandates daily physical education in grades K-12, but it does not require daily recess at the elementary school level. The state enforces these mandates by requiring written assurances from schools.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state does not mandate the number of high school physical education credits that are required for high school graduation. However physical education is mandated daily for all high school grade levels.

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute interscholastic sports, JROTC, marching band or competitive cheer-leading for the required physical education credit.

Exemptions/Waivers: Districts may request a one-time physical education waiver from the state legislature. If approved, the initial waiver is for a two-year period. Districts then can apply for two two-year extensions of this waiver for a total of six years.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The Illinois Learning Standards were last revised in 1996. [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. Local school systems have the option of using a commercial curriculum of their choice.

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 allow required physical education credits to 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 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 requires schools to collect students' BMI or height and weight in grades 1, 6 and 9. This information is collected by the doctors who give the students their required school physicals at these grade levels. BMI data are also used for research studies. The BMI data are being collected by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

**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:** Professional development continuing education hours or credits are required to maintain/renew one’s physical education teacher certification or licensure. The state also requires professional development for physical education teachers on physical education topics, comparable to other curricular areas. No state funding is provided for this professional development.

**National Board Certification (NBC):** The state actively encourages physical education teachers to become certified through the NBC process by providing or facilitating mentoring for teachers going through the process, providing full funding if the teacher receives board certification, and providing one or more forms of non-monetary recognition for National Board-certified teachers.

**District Physical Education Coordinator:** The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a PE coordinator.

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