



Amount of Required Physical Education: Maine mandates physical education in grades K-8, but it does not require daily recess in elementary schools. The state also requires high schools to provide physical education to their students.

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

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

Exemptions/Waivers: The state Commissioner of Education may grant waivers for one year at a time.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The 2007 Maine Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction have not been revised. [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 or individual schools have the option of using a commercial curriculum.

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 in physical education annually in grades 3-8. School districts and teachers decide how to use data. Data are not sent to the Maine Department of Education. The assessment measures performance of motor/movement skills, physical fitness levels, knowledge of physical education content and personal and social responsibility in physical education.

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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 does not have an education report card for each school.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state passed legislation in 2009 to collect BMI data in Maine schools. A work group has been convened, but has yet to finalize the details of this legislation.

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 PE classes, but only if a school district shows that an undue hardship exists. The PRAXIS exam is required for certification, and certification must be renewed every five years.

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.

Temporary Certification: Temporary or emergency teacher certification may be granted for one year. A conditional license requires 24 college credits in the area; a transitional license requires a bachelor's degree in another teaching area and six credits in a new content area.

National Board Certification (NBC): The state encourages 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.

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