**Amount of Required Physical Education:** Maryland mandates physical education in grades K-8, but it does not require daily recess at the elementary school level. The state also requires high schools to provide physical education to students. This is enforced by the Code of Maryland Regulations.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** The state requires students to earn 0.5 physical education credits for graduation.

**Substitutions:** Each local school system determines the instruction materials and activities that will allow its students to meet the state’s physical education standards.

**Exemptions/Waivers:** Exemptions are not allowed.

**State Standards:** The state has developed its own standards for physical education, which all local school systems must include in their curricular documents. The Maryland State Curriculum for Physical Education was last revised in May 2009. [See State Standards for Physical Education chart for details.]

**State Curriculum:** The state requires local schools to align to the State curriculum. The local school systems determine the instructional materials and activities that will allow their students to meet the Maryland physical education standards.

**Class Size:** The state does not specify a teacher-to-student ratio.

**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.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** Physical education grades are included in a student’s overall GPA.

**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: Each local school system has a report card for all content areas that also includes grades for physical education.

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. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) may teach required elementary school PE classes. A score of 70% on the PRAXIS exam is required for certification.

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.

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 partial funding for cost only if the teacher receives board certification and providing partial reimbursement for teachers going through the process.

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

Other Notes: Maryland policy provides local control to the school systems. Most decisions are specific to each local school system regarding grading, assessments, report cards and other assessments.

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