**Amount of Required Physical Education:** Massachusetts mandates physical education in grades K-12, but it does not require daily recess in elementary school. The state requires high schools to provide students with physical education. Compliance with physical education law is monitored during the coordinated program review that is conducted with all school districts on a rotating basis every six years. A school that does not require physical education in every grade is required to develop corrective action plans.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** State law does not specify the number of physical education credits required for graduation.

**Substitutions:** The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for their required physical education credit. Local school officials have discretion to determine whether and how a student, particularly at the high school level, may meet the physical education requirement through an organized program of instructed physical activity. This discretion is similar to the authority of school officials to permit students to fulfill the requirements of an academic course by taking a course elsewhere that the officials deem to be equivalent.

**Substitutions: Exemptions/Waivers:** Individual school districts may grant waivers or exemptions.

**State Standards:** The state has developed its own standards for physical education. The Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework was last revised in 1999. [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 districts decide their own physical education curricula, which may include commercial curricula.

**Class Size:** The state does not mandate a teacher-to-student ratio comparable to other curricular areas.
Online Physical Education Courses: The use of online physical education courses is up to individual school districts.

State Comprehensive Assessment Test: The state does not have a required comprehensive assessment test for graduation that includes 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, but physical education is not included as one of the subject areas.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state has a newly-adopted policy which requires collection of students’ BMI or height and weight in grades 1, 4, 7 and 10. BMI data will be reported directly and confidentially to a parent or legal guardian, and without identifiers to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. These requirements shall be met by June 30, 2010, by public school systems receiving direct funding from the department for school nursing services, and by June 30, 2011, by all other public schools.

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, as they are tested in the licensure exam for the content area of physical education.

Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers: There is a requirement for professional development continuing education hours or credits for maintaining licensure.

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.

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