



## NEBRASKA

**Amount of Required Physical Education:** Nebraska mandates physical education in grades K-8, but it does not require daily recess at the elementary school level. All high schools are required to provide their students with physical education. At the high school level, all high schools must offer physical education, but it is up to local school districts as to whether they require the students to take it. The state's Rule 10 requires that schools comply with these regulations to receive state accreditation.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** The state Department of Education does not set graduation requirements for the schools; this is a local control decision. The majority of Nebraska high schools require a minimum of one semester (1.0 credit) of physical education for graduation. Schools must offer two full years of health and wellness instruction, but local school districts determine what students are required to take for graduation.

**Exemptions/Waivers:** Local school districts can grant waivers or exemptions. The length of the exemption depends on the reason for the exemption/waiver and the local school district.

**State Standards:** The state has developed its own standards for physical education, modeled on the National Standards for Physical Education. This document is recommended as guidance for local school districts; however, school districts do not have to comply. The Nebraska Physical Education Essential Learnings were last revised in 2006. [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 have the option of creating their own curriculum, or using a commercial curriculum of their choice, including any of the following: SPARK, CATCH, Fitness for Life, Physical Best, Stay Physically Active for Life (HS) and It's Time to Move! (MS); Michigan Model; Physical Essentials (Elem), Physical Focus (MS), Physical Dimensions (HS).

**Class Size:** The state does not mandate a teacher-to-student ratio for any curriculum area.

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<http://www.naspeinfo.org/shapeofthenation> • 1900 Association Drive • Reston, VA 20190, U.S.

(703) 476-3410 • Fax (703) 476-8316 • E-mail [naspe@aahperd.org](mailto:naspe@aahperd.org)

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**Online Physical Education Courses:** The state has no policy on whether physical education credits may 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, but physical education is not 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 for reporting purposes. Schools collect height and weight at the beginning of each school year as part of the school health screening process, but do not have to report it.

**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. No state funding is provided for this professional development.

**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.

**Contact Person:**

Julane Hill, Director  
 Coordinated School Health  
 Nebraska Department of Education  
 301 Centennial Mall South, 6th Floor  
 Lincoln, NE 68509  
 402-471-4352  
 Julane.hill@nebraska.gov

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