



NEW JERSEY

Amount of Required Physical Education: New Jersey mandates at least 150 minutes of health, safety and physical education per week in all grades, 1-12, but does not require daily recess at the elementary school level. The NJ Quality Single Accountability System is the state's school district evaluation process, which occurs every three years. It requires districts to have a health and physical education curriculum aligned to the most recent version of New Jersey's Core Standards and looks at instruction and supervision across all subject areas including physical education.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 3.75 physical education credits per year (equal to 150 minutes per week) for each year of attendance. For students who complete a traditional four-year high school program, this means attaining a minimum of 15 total credits—3.75 credits for each of the four years in high school.

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for their required physical education credits. Option 2 of the graduation requirements permits alternative activities for any subject area. The options for substitution are a local decision.

Exemptions/Waivers: Exemptions are not allowed.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all public school districts must comply. The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education were last revised in June 2009. [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. School districts have the option of using any curriculum, including commercial options.

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

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NASPE is an association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance,

Online Physical Education Courses: Option 2 of the graduation requirements permits alternative activities for any subject area, which could include substituting online physical education courses for required physical education credits. The options for substitution are a local decision.

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 has a required comprehensive assessment test for graduation, but physical education is not measured in this test.

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 requires schools to collect students' BMI or height and weight once per year in grades 1-12. Parents or guardians are notified of specific health concerns.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers: The state requires certification or licensure of physical education teachers who wish to teach at the elementary, middle school/junior high or high school levels. The certification is a K-12 licensure. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists with K-5 certification) may teach required elementary school physical education classes as long as those classes are not more than one-half of their teaching assignment. A score of 148 on the PRAXIS PE Content 10091 or a score of 151 on the Health/PE 20856 exam is required for the physical education certification.

Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers: 100 hours of professional development, continuing education hours or credits are required, but the local district decides the penalty (if any) for not fulfilling this requirement. The state also requires professional development for physical education teachers on physical education topics, comparable to other curricular areas. State funding is not 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:

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