Amount of Required Physical Education: New Mexico mandates physical education in grades K-12, but it does not require daily recess at the elementary school level (this is a local option). The state requires written mandates from the school districts that these requirements are being met. Due to a legislative appropriation, approximately 200 elementary schools have hired a licensed elementary physical education teacher to teach the program.

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

Substitutions: The state permit school districts to design elective courses to satisfy any of the specified credits required for graduation, including physical education. The local board must approve this process on a course-by-course basis that ultimately requires approval of the state secretary of education. There are no direct substitutions for physical education requirements.

Exemptions/Waivers: The state secretary of education may approve a district superintendent’s request to waive the high school physical education graduation requirement for a student, provided the student has a permanent disability or chronic condition that limits physical activity, as noted by a physician.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, to which all school districts must comply. The K-12 Physical Education Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards were last revised in 2005. [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 writing their own curriculum or using a commercial curriculum of their choice, as long as the curriculum aligns with the state’s standards.

Class Size: The state mandates a teacher-to-student ratio comparable to other curricular areas.
**Online Physical Education Courses:** The state does not recognize online physical education courses.

**Student Assessment Requirements:** The state requires student assessment in physical education in all grades 1-12. Use of assessment data is determined at the local level.

**Fitness Testing:** The state does not require the use of a particular fitness test protocol.

**State Comprehensive Assessment Test:** The state has a state-standards-based assessment test for graduation, but physical education is not one of the subjects assessed.

**Education Report Card:** The state does not have an education report card 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 physical education classes.

**Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers:** Professional development continuing education hours or credit requirements are determined at the local level.

**National Board Certification (NBC):** The state actively encourages 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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