Amount of Required Physical Education: The state mandates physical education in elementary school, middle school/junior high school and high school. Rhode Island mandates an average of 100 minutes per week of health and physical education as required in the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations For School Health Programs and the Rhode Island Physical Education Framework. Recess, free play, and after-school activities are not counted as physical education.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state does not mandate the number of high school physical education credits that are required for a student to graduate.

Substitutions: The state does not permit school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for their required physical education credit.

Exemptions/Waivers: Exemptions are not allowed.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The Rhode Island Physical Education Framework was last revised in 2003 and has been endorsed by the Rhode Island Board of Regents to guide physical education curriculum, instruction and assessment. According to the state law (RI 2008 Public Laws, Chapters 08-254 & 08-463), by September 2012, school physical education curricula must be aligned with the standards and performance indicators. [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 and high school physical education. Local school systems have the option of using a commercial curriculum such as SPARK or CATCH.
**Class Size:** There is no state mandate regarding a maximum teacher-to-student ratio in elementary, middle school/junior high, or high school physical education classes.

**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.

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

**State Comprehensive Assessment Test:** The state has a comprehensive assessment test for graduation, but physical education is not included 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 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 not teach required elementary school physical education classes. The PRAXIS II exam is required for certification. Certification must be renewed every three years.

**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.

**Temporary Certification:** Temporary or emergency certification may be granted for a three-year period to teach physical education at the elementary, middle school/junior high and high school levels. Applicants for a temporary certification must meet the specific requirements of the Rhode Island Department of Education.

**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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