South Carolina mandates at least 60 minutes of physical education per week in grades K-5, but it does not require daily recess. The state also mandates that high schools provide physical education to students. There is no requirement for middle school/junior high schools. Elementary schools must submit a survey and program assessment on these requirements. Middle schools must submit a program assessment. High schools are assessed by the School Administration Student Information (SASI, now POWERSCHOOL) atom (component) and submit to a program assessment.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** The state requires students to earn 1.0 physical education credit, including a 0.5 credit personal wellness course for graduation.

**Substitutions:** The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute JROTC 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 South Carolina Academic Standards for Physical Education were last revised in 2008. [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. Commercial curricula may be used.

**Class Size:** The state mandates a 40:1 student-to-teacher ratio, which is not comparable to other curricular areas.

**Online Physical Education Courses:** Physical education credits may be earned through online physical education courses. The following are currently offered online: comprehensive physical education (addresses all state or national standards), personal fitness/wellness, sports (e.g., golf), and weight training. All students are eligible.
**Student Assessment Requirements:** The state requires student assessment in physical education in grades 2, 5, 8 and 9. Students’ performance of motor/movement skills, physical fitness levels, knowledge of physical education content and participation in physical activity outside of physical education class are assessed. Results are used to evaluate program effectiveness.

**Fitness Testing:** The state requires the use of FITNESSGRAM in the South Carolina Physical Education Assessment and FITNESSGRAM reports are sent to parents or guardians of students in grades 5, 8 and high school.

**State Comprehensive Assessment Test:** The state has a comprehensive assessment test for graduation, but physical education achievement is not measured in this test.

**Education Report Card:** The state has an education report card for each school, and physical education is included as one of the subject areas.

**Body Mass Index (BMI):** The state requires schools to collect body composition, students’ BMI or height and weight once per year in grades 5, 8 and 9. Individual student results are sent to parents or guardians in a FITNESSGRAM/ACTIVITYGRAM.

**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. Grades of 146 on content knowledge and 160 on the video portion of the PRAXIS II exam are required for certification, which must be renewed every five 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 to teach at the elementary, middle school/junior high school or high school level to anyone completing the Program of Alternative Certification for Educators program. This certification is valid for three years.

**National Board Certification (NBC):** The state actively encourages physical education teachers to become certified through the NBC process by providing partial funding if the teacher receives board certification, and provide an on-going higher level of pay to all teachers who are National Board-certified.

**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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