

## NEW JERSEY



**Amount of Required Physical Education:** The state requires students to take 150 minutes per week of “health, safety and physical education” in elementary, middle school/junior high, and high school.<sup>210</sup> High school students must earn physical education credit for graduation. The requirements are enforced using a department monitoring/review process.

**Physical Education Equipment and Facilities:** The state does not annually assess the availability of appropriate equipment and adequate facilities for students to engage in required physical education instruction.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** District boards are required to develop and implement local graduation requirements that include 3.75 credits in health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as 150 minutes per week.<sup>211</sup>

**Substitutions:** The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for their required physical education credits. Local districts are responsible for determining the activities that are permitted for substitution.

**Exemptions/Waivers:** The state does not permit schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from state physical education requirements. Students may not apply for an exemption from required physical education. Specially-designed physical education services will be made available as necessary to any student with a disability.<sup>212</sup>

**Physical Activity:** The state does not require elementary schools to provide daily recess and does not require a minimum weekly amount of physical activity time for elementary, middle school/junior high, or high school students.

**Local School Wellness Policy:** The state does not require schools or school districts to provide their local school wellness policy to the state education agency nor to post it online for the public. The state monitors the implementation of local school wellness policies through the Department’s monitoring/review process.

**State Standards:** The state has adopted standards for physical education. [The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for](#)

[Comprehensive Health and Physical Education](#) were last revised in 2014.

**Areas addressed in the state standards include:**

**National Standard 1:** Competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns

**National Standard 2:** Knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance

**National Standard 3:** Knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness

**National Standard 4:** Responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others

**National Standard 5:** Value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and/or social interaction

**State Curriculum:** The state requires school districts and schools to use a curriculum aligned with the state standards for physical education. Curricula must be reviewed and/or revised every five years. In the past year the state has distributed a model physical education curriculum and a chart describing the scope and sequence for physical education to schools and school districts. It has also promoted use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) through state communication networks.

**State Funding for Physical Education Programs:** General education funding is available for the state’s physical education programs in school districts and schools. The state survey reported no additional funding for physical education programs. State law indicates that multi-purpose physical education fields, playgrounds, and playground equipment are eligible for state support if they are part of a project consisting of new construction for unhoused students or if existing facilities are being rehabilitated to support the Core Curriculum Content Standards for physical education teaching stations.<sup>213</sup>

**Class Size:** The state does not have a required student-teacher ratio for academic classes.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** The state requires physical education grades to be included in a student’s GPA.<sup>214</sup>

**Online Physical Education Courses:** N/A

**Student Assessment Requirements:** The state requires student assessment in physical education in grades 1-12. Assessments measure grade level expectations aligned to state standards. Individual student results are sent to parents/guardians.

**Fitness Assessment:** N/A

**Body Mass Index (BMI):** The state requires schools to collect height and weight data for each student. It does not provide model policies, policy guidance, or other materials to inform school or district policy on this screening.

**Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers:**

The state requires physical education teachers to be state certified/licensed and endorsed to teach physical education at the elementary, middle school/junior high, and high school levels.<sup>215</sup> It also requires physical education teachers to pass a physical education certificate/licensure exam (Praxis) before they are endorsed to teach physical education. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) are allowed to teach required elementary school physical education classes.

**Professional Development of Physical Education**

**Teachers:** Professional development is required in order to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure, and this professional development must be on physical education topics. The state provides professional development events or funding specifically for physical education teachers.

**Teacher Evaluation:** The state has a teacher evaluation system for all teachers.

**National Board Certification:** N/A

**District Physical Education Coordinator:** The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a physical education coordinator. It has designated staffing (<1.0 FTE) to oversee implementation, compliance, technical assistance, or monitoring of physical education programs in school districts and schools.

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210 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:35-7 (2015); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:35-5 (2015); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:35-8 (2015).

211 N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:8-5.1 (2015).

212 N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:14-4.1 (2015).

213 N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:26-3.2 (2015).

214 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:35-7 (2015).

215 N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:9B-9.2 (2015).