

WISCONSIN



Amount of Required Physical Education: The state requires students to take physical education in grades K-8, but does not have a requirement for the number of minutes. High school students in grades 9-12 are also required to take physical education (though one year may be optional), and students must earn physical education credit for graduation.³⁵² The state enforces the physical education requirements by responding to complaints submitted to the Department of Public Instruction. An investigation follows, with a transition plan to meet requirements.

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: The state requires students to earn 1.5 credits in physical education for graduation.³⁵³

Substitutions: The state permits school districts or schools to allow students to substitute interscholastic sports, community sports, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC), cheerleading, or marching band for required physical education participation or credit. School boards may decide to adopt a provision in state law that allows students who participate in sports or another organized physical activity to substitute an additional 0.5 credit in English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health education for 0.5 credit in physical education.³⁵⁴

Exemptions/Waivers: The state permits schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from state physical education requirements. The state survey reported that the Director of Content and Learning in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has the authority to grant waivers regarding physical education, which are effective for one year. State law specifies that a school district board may submit a written request approval from the state superintendent to comply in an alternate manner with any of the district standards.³⁵⁵ Students may not apply for an exemption from required physical education.

Physical Activity: The state does not require elementary schools to provide daily recess, and it does not require a minimum weekly amount of physical activity for elementary, middle school/junior high, or high school students. Classroom physical activity breaks are not required. The state does not prohibit the use of withholding physical activity, including recess, as punishment for disciplinary

reasons, nor does it prohibit using physical activity as punishment for inappropriate behavior.

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. It monitors the implementation of local school wellness policies through documentation supporting that the school has taken required steps regarding implementation, transparency, public input and availability.

State Standards: The state has adopted standards for physical education, with which all school districts are required to comply. [The Wisconsin Standards for Physical Education](#) were last revised in 2010.

Areas addressed in the 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. For elementary, middle school/junior high, and high schools the state requires a sequential curriculum that specifies objectives, course sequence, course content, resources, an objective process, and evaluation method.³⁵⁶ Curriculum must be reviewed and/or revised by the local district at least once every five years. In the past year the state has distributed written physical education curriculum, goals and objectives of physical education program, student learning benchmarks, a chart describing scope and sequence for physical education, and lesson plans or learning activities to schools and school districts. It has promoted use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) to schools or school districts through existing state communication networks.

State Funding for Physical Education Programs: General education funding based on enrollment is available for the state's physical education programs in school districts and schools. Five-year grants for chronic disease prevention and school health promotion from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 16 priority school districts are available and may be used for technical assistance and professional development.

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

Grade Point Average (GPA): The state does not require physical education grades to be included in a student's GPA.

Online Physical Education Courses: The state allows students to earn required physical education credits through online physical education courses.

Student Assessment Requirements: Students are assessed based on local district curriculum in grades 1-12.³⁵⁷ Data are collected at the local level only. Aggregate results are used to inform school district or school's long-term strategic planning, School Improvement Plans, and wellness policies. Individual student results are sent to parents/guardians.

Fitness Assessment: The state does not require student physical fitness assessment.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state provides model policies, policy guidance, or other materials to inform school or district policy on this screening. Aggregate data for the school and school district are sent to the state department of education and individual student results are sent to parents. Data are sent to the department of public instruction only for grant requirement purposes.

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 middle school/junior high and high school levels, and to teach online physical education courses.³⁵⁸ It also requires physical education teachers to pass a physical education certificate/licensure exam

(Praxis II and Subject Area Test) 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, but this professional development does not have to 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: The state supports the National Board Certification process by actively promoting and encouraging teachers to register for the process and providing full funding only if the teacher receives board certification. Teachers may also receive funding and grants to assist with and recognize certification.

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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352 Wis. Admin. Code Pub. Instruction § 8.01 (2015); Wis. Stat. § 121.02 (2015); Wis. Stat. § 118.01 (2015).

353 Wis. Stat. § 118.33 (2015); Wis. Admin. Code Pub. Instruction § 18.03 (2015).

354 Wis. Stat. § 118.33 (2015).

355 Wis. Admin. Code Pub. Instruction § 8.01 (2015).

356 Wis. Admin. Code Pub. Instruction § 8.01 (2015); Wis. Stat. § 118.01 (2015).

357 Wis. Admin. Code Pub. Instruction § 8.01 (2015).

358 Wis. Admin. Code Pub. Instruction § 34.30 (2015).