

Policy Assessment for: Physical Education Instruction in Wisconsin Schools

Exist in Wisconsin Already:

Yes No

Comments:

WI State Statute 121.02

- Grades K-6; three times per week at minimum
- Middle School; grade 6 has weekly minimum
- Grades 9-12: at least 1.5 credits of physical education incorporating effects of exercise, health-related fitness, and lifetime activities; credits must be earned over 3 separate years

<http://dpi.state.wi.us/cal/physed.html>

Other States/Communities with Similar Legislation:

- **South Carolina:** HB3499; Enacted in 2005
 - Provides for the amount of physical education for K-5 and teacher-student ratio. Provides for the measure of effectiveness of physical education programming in public schools
- **Texas:** HB1257, Pending in 2007
 - Requires students in K-8 to participate in daily PE as part of the school district's physical education curriculum. Also requires schools to assess physical fitness of K-12 students, twice a year, including body composition assessment
- **Washington:** HB1188; Pending in 2007
 - Requires all public schools to provide opportunities for at least one hour of physical activity per day, for students in grades K-12.
- **New York:** A03825, Pending in 2007
 - **Provides for required instruction in physical education in elementary schools;** requires that regents should include in its rules that students in elementary schools shall participate in physical education for a minimum of 150 minutes during each school week
- **Oklahoma:** HB1601, Pending in 2007
 - Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the State Board of Education shall require, as a condition of accreditation, that public elementary schools provide instruction, for students in full-day kindergarten and grades one through five, in physical education or exercise programs for a minimum of an average of sixty (60) minutes each week. The time students participate in recess shall not be counted toward the sixty minutes per week physical education requirement. C. The State Board of Education shall disseminate information to each school district on the benefits of physical education programs and shall strongly encourage districts to provide physical education instruction to students in grades six through twelve. The Board shall also strongly encourage school districts to incorporate physical activity into the school day by providing to students in full-day kindergarten and grades one through five at least a twenty-minute daily recess, which shall be in addition to the sixty (60) minutes of required physical education, and by allowing all students brief physical activity breaks throughout the day, physical activity clubs, and special events. D. School districts shall provide to parents or guardians of students a physical activity report.

Rationale for Legislation:

Other Important Resources/Notes:

- North Carolina State Board of Education Policy Manual:
 - **Section 2. PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
 - (a) To address issues such as overweight, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and Type II diabetes, students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grades are to participate in physical activity as part of the district's physical education curriculum. Elementary schools should consider the benefits of and move toward having 150 minutes per week with a certified physical education teacher throughout the 180 day school year. Middle schools should consider the benefits of and move toward having 225 minutes per week of Healthful Living Education with certified health and physical education teachers throughout the 180-day school year.
 - (b) The physical education course shall be the environment in which students learn, practice and receive assessment on developmentally appropriate motor skills, social skills, and knowledge as defined in the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study and foster support and guidance for being physically active. In order to meet enhanced goals, these classes should be the same class size as other regular classes.
- Per Jon Hisgen (DPI), no bills are pending at this time. Wisconsin has one of the best statues for physical education in the county. Suggests getting schools to abide by state statute instead of pushing legislation on this issue; North Carolina recently passed legislation

Potential Legislative Language:

None drafted at this time