

HB 2357 -- Physical Education in Schools

Sponsor: Baker (25)

By July 1, 2011, this bill requires all school districts to have physical education programs that:

- (1) Require daily participation in physical education for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, a minimum 10-minute daily recess period for kindergarten through fifth grade students, and two credits or four semesters of physical education for high school students;
- (2) Establish goals and objectives for physical education based on a sequential, developmentally appropriate curriculum, with a minimum of 50% of class time devoted to physical activity, in addition to other requirements specified in the bill;
- (3) Include suitable adaptations for students who have medical or physical conditions that make participation in regular physical education activities difficult;
- (4) Encourage self-improvement and sustaining healthy fitness levels;
- (5) Provide for regular assessments at the local level for attainment of objectives; and
- (6) Provide for health-related fitness testing to be integrated into the curriculum as an instructional tool.

Exemptions from taking a physical education course that are based on participation in other activities such as marching band or athletic teams are not permitted. Facilities and equipment as well as teacher requirements are specified. The physical education program must be coordinated with other components of overall school health programs, local wellness policies, and health education and physical education grade level expectations. School districts must create community and business partnerships, where possible, to supply resources to reward schools for improved health status.