

HB 509 -- Physical Education Programs in Schools

Sponsor: Stream

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

- (1) Requires daily participation in physical education for students in kindergarten through eighth grade at a weekly minimum duration specified in the bill, plus a minimum 20-minute daily recess period for kindergarten through fifth grade students;
- (2) Establishes 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) Includes suitable adaptations for students who have medical or physical conditions that make participation in regular physical education activities difficult;
- (4) Provides for regular assessments on physical fitness proficiency at the local level for attainment of objectives, and in first through eighth grades and when high school physical education courses are taken, through the state's physical fitness assessment which are to be reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the June reporting cycle for core data; and
- (5) Provides for health-related fitness testing to be integrated into the curriculum as an instructional tool.

Exemptions from taking physical education courses 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.