Santa Barbara Unified School District
Board Policy

Instruction BP 6142.7

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY

The Governing Board recognizes the positive benefits of physical activity on student health and academic achievement. The district shall provide all students the opportunity to be physically active on a regular basis through high-quality physical education instruction and may provide additional opportunities for physical activity. The district’s physical education and activity programs shall support the district's coordinated student wellness program and encourage students' lifelong fitness.

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

The district’s physical education program shall provide a developmentally appropriate sequence of instruction aligned with the state's model content standards and curriculum framework. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's program provides students with equal opportunities for instruction and participation regardless of gender in accordance with law.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

A student may receive physical education credit from any course that meets the objectives and criteria of the district’s physical education program, adequately prepares students for state physical fitness performance tests, and is taught by a teacher holding a physical education credential. The Superintendent or designee shall evaluate whether a particular course meets these criteria.

Student participation in other courses that teach physical education standards (e.g., interscholastic sports, Marching Band, Theater Arts (Dance), Drill/Flag team, or Cheerleading, etc.) may be substituted for meeting the physical education requirement. Students shall be required to take 10 credits of physical education in the ninth grade and may be granted up to one semester of alternate credit per year for PE, during grades 9-12, for fulfilling the graduation requirement. Alternate credit PE course instructors are required to collaborate with credentialed PE instructors to ensure students receive instruction meeting CA State Standards in Physical Education. Students must demonstrate passing score on the CA physical fitness test taken in the ninth grade to gain a waiver for up to two years of PE in grades 10-12.

The overall course of study for grades 9-12 shall include the effects of physical activity upon dynamic health, the mechanics of body movement, aquatics, gymnastics and tumbling, individual and dual sports, rhythms and dance, team sports, and combatives. (Education Code 33352; 5 CCR 10060)

The Board shall approve the courses in grades 9-12 for which physical education credit may be granted.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

The district’s physical education program shall engage students in moderate to vigorous physical activity as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation for at least 50 percent of class or session time.
Students with disabilities shall be provided instruction in physical education in accordance with their individualized education program or Section 504 accommodation plan.

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

During air pollution episodes, extreme weather, or other inclement conditions, physical education staff shall make appropriate adjustments to the program or shall seek alternative indoor space to enable students to participate in active physical education.

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
(cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)

**Staffing**

Physical education instruction shall be delivered by appropriately credentialed teachers who may be assisted by appropriately trained instructional aides, paraprofessionals, and/or volunteers.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)
(cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)

The district shall provide physical education teachers with continuing professional development, including classroom management and instructional strategies designed to keep students engaged and active and to enhance the quality of physical education instruction and assessment.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

**Physical Fitness Testing**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually administer the physical fitness test designated by the State Board of Education to students in grades 5, 7, and 9. (Education Code 60800; 5 CCR 1041)

**Temporary Exemptions**

The Superintendent or designee may grant a temporary exemption from physical education under either of the following conditions: (Education Code 51241)

1. The student is ill or injured and a modified program to meet his/her needs cannot be provided.
2. The student is enrolled for one-half time or less.

**Two-Year Exemptions**

With the student's consent, the Superintendent or designee may exempt a student from physical education courses for any two years during grades 10-12 provided that the student has satisfactorily met at least five of the six standards of the state's physical fitness test in grade 9. (Education Code 51241)

Upon request by students and/or their parents/guardians, the Superintendent or designee may administer the physical fitness test to students in grades 10-12 who need to pass the test in order to qualify for a two-year exemption from physical education courses.

**Permanent Exemptions**

The Superintendent or designee may grant a permanent exemption from physical education to an individual student under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 51241)
1. The student is age 16 years or older and has been enrolled in grade 10 for one or more academic years.
2. The student is enrolled as a postgraduate student.
3. The student is enrolled in a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp school with scheduled recreation and exercise.

**Other Exemptions**
The Superintendent or designee may grant an exemption from physical education under the following special circumstances:

1. The student in grades 10-12 is excused for up to 24 clock hours in order to participate in automobile driver training. (Education Code 51222)
2. The student in grades 10-12 attends a regional occupational center or program and attendance in physical education courses results in hardship because of the travel time involved. (Education Code 52316)
3. The student is in high school and is engaged in a regular school-sponsored interscholastic athletic program carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours. (Education Code 51242)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

**Legal Reference:**

**EDUCATION CODE**
- 33126 School accountability report card
- 33350-33354 CDE responsibilities re: physical education
- 35236 School accountability report card
- 49066 Grades; physical education class
- 51210 Course of study, grades 1-6
- 51220 Course of study, grades 7-12
- 51222 Physical education
- 51223 Physical education, elementary schools
- 51241 Temporary, two-year or permanent exemption from physical education
- 51242 Exemption from physical education for athletic program participants
- 52316 Excuse from attending physical education classes
- 60800 Physical performance test

**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5**
- 1040-1048 Physical performance test
- 3051.5 Adapted physical education for individuals with exceptional needs
- 10060 Criteria for high school physical education programs

**UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29**
- 794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

**UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42**
- 1751 Note Local wellness policy

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS**

**Management Resources:**

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
- Active Bodies, Active Minds: Physical Activity and Academic Achievement, Fact Sheet, February 2010
- Maximizing Opportunities for Physical Activity Through Joint Use of Facilities, Policy Brief, rev. February 2010
- Maximizing Opportunities for Physical Activity During the School Day, Fact Sheet, November 2009
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derate to Vigorous Physical Activity in Physical Education to Improve Health and Academic Outcomes, Fact Sheet, November 2009
Physical Education and California Schools, Policy Brief, rev. October 2007
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Physical Education Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade 12, 2009
Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade 12, January 2005
Adapted Physical Education Guidelines for California Schools, 2003
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS
School Health Index for Physical Activity and Healthy Eating: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide for Elementary and Middle/High Schools, 2000
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS
2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, October 2008
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Healthy Kids Resource Center: http://www.californiahealthykids.org
California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition): http://www.californiaprojectlean.org
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov
Educational Data System, California physical fitness: http://www.eddata.com/projects/current/cpf
Healthy People 2010: http://www.healthypeople.gov
National Association for Sport and Physical Education: http://www.aahperd.org/naspe
President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports: http://www.fitness.gov
The California Endowment: http://www.calendow.org

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