

Physical Education Survey Report to the Ohio General Assembly

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Physical Education Survey Report

In 2007, Senate Bill 118 was introduced to address reforms in physical education. Three parts of SB 118 were included in the state's FY08-09 operating budget (House Bill 119). Am. Sub. HB 119 required:

- The State Board of Education to adopt either the latest National Association of Sports and Physical Education (NASPE) standards or its own standards for physical education in grades K-12 by Dec. 31, 2007;
- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to employ a full-time physical education coordinator by Oct. 31, 2007; and
- All school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools to report the number of minutes and classes per week of physical education for students in grades K-8 during 2006-2007 and scheduled for 2007-2008 school year by Oct. 31, 2007.

In December, the State Board of Education adopted the NASPE standards and a plan to develop Ohio-specific benchmarks and indicators in 2008. ODE hired a physical education consultant in October. By the end of December, approximately 91 percent of Ohio schools had complied with the requirement to report to ODE the number of minutes and classes per week of physical education they provided to their students. The findings of that survey are included within this report.

Method of Data Collection

ODE designed an electronic survey to collect data on the number of minutes and classes per week of physical education provided to students in grades K-8 for the 2006-2007 school year and scheduled for the 2007-2008 school year. On Oct. 1, 2007, the survey was electronically transmitted to all school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools. Each school entity had until Oct. 31, 2007, to respond. As of Nov. 15, 2007, 1,461 surveys were completed. For the non-responsive school entities, a follow-up survey was electronically transmitted on Dec. 6, 2007. Follow-up phone calls were made to several districts about two weeks later. As a result of the second survey request, 239 more surveys were completed and submitted, bringing the total to 1,700 as of Jan. 4, 2008.

Summary of the Data

The data revealed only small variation across schools, grades or school years. The reported number of classes per week was fairly consistent across schools, grades and school years with schools reporting approximately two classes per week. The minutes per week also were fairly consistent across schools and years, but, on average, students in grades 6-8 received about 20 more minutes per week of physical education than students in grades 1-5 and about 30 more minutes per week than kindergarten students.

Survey Results

Minutes per Week of Physical Education						
Grade	Average		Median		Most Frequently Reported	
	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08
K	56.7	58.6	50	51	60	60
1	65.6	66.3	60	60	60	60
2	65.8	67.2	60	60	60	60
3	66.3	67.4	60	60	60	60
4	68.5	69.3	60	60	60	60
5	70.6	72.2	60	65	60	60
6	77.7	78.9	79	80	80	80
7	87.0	88.3	80	80	80	80
8	86.8	89.0	82	84	80	80
K-8	71.3	72.7	60	60	60	60

Number of Classes per Week of Physical Education						
Grade	Average		Median		Most Frequently Reported	
	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08
K	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1	2
1	1.7	1.8	2	2	2	2
2	1.7	1.8	2	2	2	2
3	1.7	1.7	2	2	2	2
4	1.7	1.8	2	2	2	2
5	1.8	1.8	2	2	2	2
6	1.9	1.9	2	2	2	2
7	2.1	2.1	2	2	2	2
8	2.1	2.1	2	2	2	2
K-8	1.8	1.8	2	2	2	2

A spreadsheet with all data collected is available on the Web at www.ode.state.oh.us, keyword search: *Physical Education*. For more information, contact Greg Dennis, ODE Legislative Services, at (614) 466-3125.