

**Policy**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The Board of Education requires all students to participate in a comprehensive, sequential, health and physical education program aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) that emphasizes the natural interdisciplinary connection between wellness and health and physical education. The primary focus of the NJSLs is the development of knowledge and skills that influence healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global community.

The curriculum requirements listed below address the need for students to gain knowledge and skill in caring for themselves, interacting effectively with others, and analyzing the impact of choices and consequences. The primary focus of the curriculum listed below is to help students develop concepts and skills that promote and influence healthy behaviors.

The NJSLs incorporate New Jersey statutes related to health and well-being of students in New Jersey schools. The following statutes incorporated into the NJSLs include, but are not limited to, the following requirements:

1. Accident and Fire Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2) requires regular courses of instruction in accident and fire prevention.
2. Breast Self-Examination (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5.4) requires offering instruction on breast self-examination for students in grades seven through twelve.
3. Bullying Prevention Programs (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17) requires the establishment of bullying prevention programs.
4. Cancer Awareness (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-33) requires the development of a school program on cancer awareness by the Commissioner of Education.
5. Dating Violence Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.23a) requires instruction regarding dating violence in grades seven through twelve.
6. Domestic Violence Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.23) allows instruction on problems related to domestic violence and child abuse.
7. Gang Violence Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.26) requires instruction in gang violence prevention for elementary school students.
8. Health, Safety, and Physical Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5) requires that all students in grades one through twelve participate in at least two and one-half hours of health, safety, and physical education each school week.
9. Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled Dangerous Substances, and Anabolic Steroids (N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1) requires instructional programs on drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco, and controlled dangerous substances and the development of curriculum

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guidelines for each grade Kindergarten through twelve.

10. Lyme Disease Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5.1 through 5.3) requires the development of Lyme Disease curriculum guidelines and training to all teaching staff members who instruct students with Lyme Disease.
11. Organ Donation (N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4.3) requires information relative to organ donation to be given to students in grades nine through twelve.
12. Sexual Assault Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.3) requires the development of a sexual assault prevention education program by the Commissioner of Education for utilization by school districts.
13. Stress Abstinence (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.19 through N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.22), also known as the "AIDS Prevention Act of 1999," requires sex education programs to stress abstinence.
14. Suicide Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 through 113) requires instruction in suicide prevention in public schools.
15. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.28 and 18A:35-4.29) requires public high schools and charter schools to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator to each student prior to graduation.
16. Sexually Explicit Images through Electronic Means (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.32 and 4.33) requires instruction, once during middle school, on the social, emotional, and legal consequences of distributing and soliciting sexually explicit images through electronic means.
17. History of Disabled and LGBT Persons (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.35 and 4.36) requires instruction on the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people for middle and high school students.
18. Financial Literacy (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.34) requires instruction with basic financial literacy necessary for sound financial decision-making in each of the grades six through eight.
19. Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.5a) requires age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades preschool through twelve.
20. Curriculum to Include Instruction on Diversity and Inclusion (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.36a) requires instruction on diversity and inclusion in an appropriate place in the curriculum for students in grades Kindergarten through twelve.
21. Incorporation of Age-Appropriate Instruction Relative to Consent for Physical Contact and Sexual Activity (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.38) requires age-appropriate instruction in grades six through twelve on the law and meaning of consent for physical contact and sexual activity.

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22. Health Curriculum to Include Instruction on Mental Health (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.39) requires health education programs to include instruction on mental health and the relation of physical and mental health for students in grades Kindergarten through twelve.
23. Information About "New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act" Included in Public School Curriculum (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.40) information on the provisions of the "New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act" shall be included in the curriculum for public school students in grades nine through twelve.
24. Infusion of African American Accomplishments into School Curricula (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.43) requires in the curriculum for all elementary and secondary students instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America.
25. Other Statutory or Administrative Codes. The Board will incorporate into its health and physical education curriculum any other requirements of the NJSLs in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, any student whose parent presents to the Principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his/her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result.

The Board of Education must provide two and one-half hours of health, safety, and physical education courses in each school week, or proportionately less when holidays fall within the week. Recess period(s) shall not be used to meet the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7, and 8.

The board directs that the district's curricular and extracurricular programs of physical education and activities comply with the district's affirmative action resolution and equity plan for school and classroom practices as stipulated in policies 2224, 5145.4, 6121 and 6145 in this manual. The board shall ensure that the comprehensive health and physical education curriculum addresses all elements required by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

In general, physical education classes shall not be divided on the basis of sex. The quality and quantity of teachers, equipment and facilities shall be equivalent among the schools and comparable from level to level, taking into account the needs of the pupils.

Members of district interscholastic athletic teams may be excused from participation in the physical activities part of their physical education program without loss of graduation credit on the request of their coach on any day on which they are designated to participate in a regularly scheduled game. The chief school administrator shall approve procedures by which coaches will inform the physical education department, on the day in question, of the specific pupils to be excused. Such pupils shall be scheduled for a study hall period instead.

The board will consider on a case by case basis requests from pupils or their parents/guardians in the case of minors for permission to satisfy the physical education requirement through an alternative program of athletics or physical education activities that meets the requirements of law and is consistent with the district's physical education program goals and instructional objectives.

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The district physical education programs and instructional activities shall be equitable. All physical education programs shall be co-educational unless otherwise indicated by law. All high school offerings in physical education shall be examined for balance and equitable facilities and resources.

A copy of the NJSLS for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education and all related curriculum/course guides and instructional material shall be available for public inspection in each school.

Adopted: July 26, 2012  
 NJSBA Review/Update: September 22, 2014, February 2017, February 2022  
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Key Words

Nondiscrimination, Physical Education, Health, Affirmative Action

<b>Legal References:</b> <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-111 et seq. See particularly: <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-113  <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:354.19 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.23  <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.23a <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.28 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:355  <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-33 through -37 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:7-1.7 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:83.1 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-5.1  <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-5.16 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-10.3 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-2.1 <u>et seq.</u> See particularly: <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-2.2 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-9.1	Instruction in Suicide Prevention  Instruction in suicide prevention in public school curriculum through -4.22 <u>AIDS Prevention Act of 1999</u> Domestic violence, child abuse, instructions on those problems Dating violence into health education curriculum Instruction in CPR and use of AED for certain students through 9 Maintenance of physical training courses; features  Dating violence policy and education Equality in school and classroom practices Curriculum and instruction Graduation requirements  Athletics Personnel Health and physical education General Provisions for School Health Services  Athletics Procedures
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20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

The Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey State Department of Education

**Possible**

<b>Cross References:</b> *2224 *5145.4	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action Equal educational opportunity
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*6121	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
*6142	Subject fields
*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
*6146	Graduation requirements

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.