

AN ACT

relating to the public school physical education curriculum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) and amending Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(d) The physical education curriculum required under Subsection (a)(2)(C) must be sequential, developmentally appropriate, and designed, implemented, and evaluated to enable students to develop the motor, self-management, and other skills, knowledge, attitudes, and confidence necessary to participate in physical activity throughout life. Each school district shall establish specific objectives and goals the district intends to accomplish through the physical education curriculum. In identifying the essential knowledge and skills of physical education, the State Board of Education shall ensure that the curriculum:

(1) emphasizes the knowledge and skills capable of being used during a lifetime of regular physical activity;

(2) is consistent with national physical education standards for:

(A) the information that students should learn about physical activity; and

(B) the physical activities that students should

1 be able to perform;

2 (3) requires that, on a weekly basis, at least 50
3 percent of the physical education class be used for actual student
4 physical activity and that the activity be, to the extent
5 practicable, at a moderate or vigorous level;

6 (4) offers students an opportunity to choose among
7 many types of physical activity in which to participate;

8 (5) offers students both cooperative and competitive
9 games;

10 (6) meets the needs of students of all physical
11 ability levels, including students who have a disability, chronic
12 health problem, or other special need that precludes the student
13 from participating in regular physical education instruction but
14 who might be able to participate in physical education that is
15 suitably adapted and, if applicable, included in the student's
16 individualized education program;

17 (7) takes into account the effect that gender and
18 cultural differences might have on the degree of student interest
19 in physical activity or on the types of physical activity in which a
20 student is interested;

21 (8) teaches self-management and movement skills;

22 (9) teaches cooperation, fair play, and responsible
23 participation in physical activity;

24 (10) promotes student participation in physical
25 activity outside of school; and

26 (11) allows physical education classes to be an
27 enjoyable experience for students.

1 (1) A school district shall require a student enrolled in
2 full-day prekindergarten, in kindergarten, or in a grade level
3 below grade six to participate in moderate or vigorous daily
4 physical activity for at least 30 minutes throughout the school
5 year as part of the district's physical education curriculum or
6 through structured activity during a school campus's daily recess.
7 To the extent practicable, a school district shall require a
8 student enrolled in prekindergarten on less than a full-day basis
9 to participate in the same type and amount of physical activity as a
10 student enrolled in full-day prekindergarten. A school district
11 shall require students enrolled in grade levels six, seven, and
12 eight to participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical
13 activity for at least 30 minutes for at least four semesters during
14 those grade levels as part of the district's physical education
15 curriculum. If a school district determines, for any particular
16 grade level below grade six, that requiring moderate or vigorous
17 daily physical activity is impractical due to scheduling concerns
18 or other factors, the district may as an alternative require a
19 student in that grade level to participate in moderate or vigorous
20 physical activity for at least 135 minutes during each school week.
21 Additionally, a school district may as an alternative require a
22 student enrolled in a grade level for which the district uses block
23 scheduling to participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity
24 for at least 225 minutes during each period of two school weeks. A
25 school district must provide for an exemption for:

26 (1) any student who is unable to participate in the
27 required physical activity because of illness or disability; and

1 (2) a middle school or junior high school student who
2 participates in an extracurricular activity with a moderate or
3 vigorous physical activity component that is considered a
4 structured activity under rules adopted by the commissioner.

5 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 25, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 25.114 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 25.114. STUDENT/TEACHER RATIOS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION
8 CLASSES; CLASS SIZE. (a) In implementing the curriculum for
9 physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C), each school
10 district shall establish specific objectives and goals the district
11 intends to accomplish through the curriculum, including, to the
12 extent practicable, student/teacher ratios that are small enough to
13 enable the district to:

14 (1) carry out the purposes of and requirements for the
15 physical education curriculum as provided under Section 28.002(d);
16 and

17 (2) ensure the safety of students participating in
18 physical education.

19 (b) If a district establishes a student to teacher ratio
20 greater than 45 to 1 in a physical education class, the district
21 shall specifically identify the manner in which the safety of the
22 students will be maintained.

23 SECTION 3. Subsection (1), Section 28.002, Education Code,
24 as amended by this Act, applies beginning with the 2009-2010 school
25 year.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

S.B. No. 891

1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 891 passed the Senate on April 9, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 29, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 891 passed the House, with amendments, on May 20, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 113, Nays 25, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor