

## RHODE ISLAND



**Amount of Required Physical Education:** The state requires students to take physical education and health combined for an average of 100 minutes per week (at least 20 minutes/day) in grades K-12. Recess, free play, and after-school activities are not allowed to be part of the physical education minutes.<sup>274</sup> The physical education requirements are enforced by the state's Annual School Health Report.

**Physical Education Equipment and Facilities:** The state does not annually assess the availability of appropriate equipment and adequate facilities for students to engage in required physical education instruction.

**High School Graduation Requirements:** The state requires physical education to be included among the 20 courses required for graduation, but does not specify a required number of physical education credits needed for graduation.<sup>275</sup>

**Substitutions:** The state does not permit school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for required physical education participation or credit.

**Exemptions/Waivers:** The state does not permit schools or school districts to apply for a waiver from state physical education requirements. Students may apply for an exemption from required physical education for medical reasons.

**Physical Activity:** The state requires elementary schools to provide daily recess, but does not specify the minimum amount of time required. It does not require a minimum weekly amount of physical activity time for elementary, middle school/junior high, or high school students.

**Local School Wellness Policy:** The state does not require schools or school districts to provide their local school wellness policy to the state education agency nor to post it online for the public. The state monitors the implementation of local school wellness policies through the state's Annual School Health Report.

**State Standards:** The state has adopted standards for physical education. [The Rhode Island Physical Education Framework](#) was last revised in 2003 and is reviewed annually.

#### Areas addressed in the standards include:

**National Standard 1:** Competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns

**National Standard 2:** Knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance

**National Standard 3:** Knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness

**National Standard 4:** Responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others

**National Standard 5:** Value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and/or social interaction

**Other:** Recognition of the internal and external environment's influence on physical activity

**State Curriculum:** The state requires school districts and schools to use a curriculum aligned with the state physical education framework and national standards, and to make the curriculum available for review by the state department of education upon request. A curriculum team made up of representatives from the school district teaching and administrative staff, parents, and community members is required to periodically review and revise the curriculum as necessary.<sup>276</sup> The state recommends review and/or revision of curriculum at least every five years. In the past year, the state has made physical education resources available online<sup>A</sup> and has promoted use of the Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) to schools or school districts by sharing information through existing state communications networks.

**State Funding for Physical Education Programs:** School district appropriations fund the state's physical education programs in school districts and schools. No additional funding is available for physical education programs.

**Class Size:** The state does not have a required student-teacher ratio for academic classes.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** The state does not require physical education grades to be included in a student's GPA.

A [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov) and [www.thriveri.org](http://www.thriveri.org)

**Online Physical Education Courses:** N/A

**Student Assessment Requirements:** The state requires student assessment in grades 1-12 in the areas of National Standards 1-5 listed above, as well as in the state physical education standards and framework.<sup>277</sup>

**Fitness Assessment:** The state does not require student physical fitness assessment.

**Body Mass Index (BMI):** The state does not require schools to collect student BMI or height and weight.

**Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers:** The state requires physical education teachers to be state certified/licensed and endorsed to teach physical education at the elementary, middle school/junior high, and high school levels. It also requires physical education teachers to pass a physical education certificate/licensure exam (Praxis<sup>B</sup>) before they are endorsed to teach physical education.<sup>278</sup> Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) are not allowed to teach required elementary school physical education classes.

### Professional Development of Physical Education

**Teachers:** Professional development is required in order to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure, but this professional development does not have to be on physical education topics. The state does not provide professional development events or funding specifically for physical education teachers.

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B Applicants must achieve a passing score of 160 on the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching for grades K-6 (5622) or a passing score of 157 on the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching for Grades 7-12 (5624), and a passing score of 154 on the Praxis II Physical Education: Content Knowledge test (5091). Applicants prepared in a program where the language of instruction was not English must achieve a passing score of 64 on the Versant Pro Speaking and Writing English assessments.

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274 16 R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-4 (2015); 31-1 R.I. Code R. § 37:3.0 (2015).  
275 21-2 R.I. Code R. § 46:L-6-3.0 (2015).  
276 16 R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-4 (2015); 31-1 R.I. Code R. § 37:6.0 (2015).

**Teacher Evaluation:** The state has a teacher evaluation system for all teachers.

**National Board Certification:** The state supports the National Board Certification process by actively promoting and encouraging teachers to register for the process.

**District Physical Education Coordinator:** The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a physical education coordinator. It does not have designated staffing to oversee implementation, compliance, technical assistance, or monitoring of physical education programs in school districts and schools.

**Contact Person:** N/A

277 31-1 R.I. Code R. § 37:6.0 (2015).  
278 21-2 R.I. Code R. § 59:9 (2015).