

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

PETER BOULWARE

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

LINDA K. TAYLOR

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



Contact Information:

Nichole Wilder

Phone: (850) 245-0813

Email: nichole.wilder@fldoe.org

DPS: 2009-121

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Chancellor Frances Haithcock

DATE: July 17, 2009

SUBJECT: UPDATED MEMORANDUM ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVERS

This memorandum serves to **replace** the previous memorandum dated May 13, 2009 regarding physical education waivers for the 2009-2010 school year.

In order to simplify the reporting of students who are eligible to waive physical education in grades K-8, a new "Physical Education Waiver" element has been created. The previously listed physical education waiver course numbers will not be used and will be deleted from the 2009-2010 Florida Course Code Directory.

Districts will use the Automated Student Information System for reporting participation in physical education for students in grades K-8. For students who are participating in physical education, the appropriate course number will be reported as well as the code of "N" on the data element "Physical Education Waiver." For students who are not participating in a physical education course because of a waiver, the district will report the code of "Y" on the data element "Physical Education Waiver" to the Florida Department of Education. This data will be collected during Surveys 2, 3, and 5 on the Federal/State Indicator Status format. District Informational Technology specialists will be receiving additional information with regard to the use of this new data element.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Specialists Memorandum

July 17, 2009

Page 2

Students in grades K-8 are eligible to waive the physical education requirement if they meet any of the following criteria:

- The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
- The student's parent indicates in writing to the school that:
 1. The parent requests that the student enroll in another course from among those courses offered as options by the school district; or
 2. The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

School districts are required to notify the student's parent of the options available before scheduling the student to participate in physical education. The legislation does not require this to be a stand-alone notification. It is a district decision as to how to notify parents prior to scheduling the student for physical education. It could be included in a school-wide newsletter, placed on the school and/or school district's Web site, etc. Sample parent notification language is included with this memorandum.

Please note that proper documentation must be provided each year that the student's parent is requesting to waive physical education. For example, parent notification provided during a student's third grade year will only waive the physical education requirement for that school year. A new request in writing from the student's parent is required for each additional year that a student is eligible and requests to waive physical education.

The physical education waivers listed in Section 1003.455, Florida Statutes, will apply to both elementary and middle school students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Questions concerning physical education requirements and waivers should be directed to Nichole Wilder at nichole.wilder@fldoe.org. Any questions dealing with the reporting of the physical education courses and physical education waiver element may be directed to Kim Ward at kim.ward@fldoe.org or Linda Hewett at linda.hewett@fldoe.org.

CH/nw

Attachments