



WHPE Position Statement

Commonly Asked Questions and Talking Points for Physical Education.

1. Why are certified physical teachers needed?

- Physical education is an academic subject that meets educational outcomes.
- Physical educators provide programs that meet academic and content standards.
- Physical educators provide a sequential curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Physical educators provide age and developmentally appropriate lessons and tasks.
- Certified physical educators are trained to assess the fitness level of all students and prescribe appropriate physical activities.

2. Why do athletes need physical education?

The table below outlines many of the differences between physical education and athletic programs. Please see the WHPE position statement on the difference between physical education and athletics for a more detailed breakdown.

<u>Athletic Programs</u>	<u>Physical Education</u>
Exclusive by nature	Inclusive by nature
Focus on winning today	Focus on learning for life
Skill based	Knowledge and skill based
Sport specific	Lifetime activities and healthy lifestyles
Competitive	Cooperative
A privilege for a few	A right for all students
Limited scope of fitness, eg. shot put	Develops and addresses all 5 components of health related fitness

3. Why are activities like dodgeball considered inappropriate in physical education?

- Any activity that uses a student as a target is inherently unsafe and provides opportunities for bullying.
- Little if any learning takes place therefore a certified physical education teacher is not needed.
- Elimination games are inappropriate because the least skilled students are eliminated first.



4. Are there guidelines for physical education and where can I find them?
- Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Physical Education are aligned with the National Standards and can be accessed at www.whpe.us
 - SHAPE America has developed several valuable position papers and guidelines for Physical Education and health. They can be accessed here: <http://www.shapeamerica.org/standards/guidelines/peguidelines.cfm> and can also be accessed through www.whpe.us

5. Does Wisconsin have mandates and where can I find them?

The [Department of Public Instruction's Web site](#) lists administrative rules for Physical Education in Wisconsin:

Standard J.

1. Comprehensive curriculum and program of instruction for all pupils.
2. K-6 – Three times per week minimum.
3. In a middle school format, grade 6 weekly minimum.
4. K-6 by or under the direction of a licensed physical education teacher.
5. Senior high schools –One year may be optional to pupils.

Standard K.

1. K-12 Sequential curriculum plan.

Standard L.

1. K-4 Regular Instruction—Each week for an entire school year to meet the plan required in (K) (Note: See J—K-6 three times per week)
2. 5-8 regular Instruction—Each week for the entire school year to meet the plan required in (K)
3. 9-12 – Access for pupils each year.

Standard P.

1. In grades 9-12 at least 1.5 credits of physical education incorporating effects of exercise, health-related fitness, and lifetime activities.
2. Credits must be earned over three separate years.

6. Can athletes be excused from Physical Education?

Wisconsin Act 105, 118.33 (1)(e) A school Board may allow a pupil who participates in sports or in another organized physical activity, as determined by the school board, to complete an additional 0.5 credit in English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health education in lieu of 0.5 credit in physical education.