

Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

September 3, 2020

() Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 072-20 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
Elementary, Middle, Junior High, K–8 Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Physical Education Requirement to Provide 100 Minutes Per Week in Grades 1–8
Temporary Suspension (Emergency Rule Change to WAC 392-410-135)

CONTACT: Ken Turner, Program Supervisor, Health and Physical Education
360-725-4977, ken.turner@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is making a temporary emergency rule change to WAC [392-410-135](#) (1) to remove the 100-minute weekly requirement of physical education that applies to grades 1–8. This temporary rule change took effect August 24, 2020 and is set to expire on December 24, 2020. Emergency rules are limited to four months; if needed, OSPI will seek a second emergency rule to continue the suspension of this section through this school year. The emergency rule will provide flexibility for school districts engaging in remote learning or hybrid schedules in Fall 2020.

BACKGROUND

This change does not remove the requirement for all students in grades 1–8 to receive instruction in physical education, per RCW [28A.230.040](#), unless excused from participation pursuant to RCW [28A.230.040](#). Physical education instruction is still required in grades 1–12. Physical education [differs from physical activity](#); students should have equitable opportunities to participate in both. [Recent data](#) from Seattle-King County suggests that students of color have less access to physical education, physical activity, and sports than white students.

Physical education is part of [basic education](#) under Washington state law and is a requirement for high school [graduation](#).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Ken Turner, Program Supervisor for Health and Physical Education, by email at ken.turner@k12.wa.us or call 360-725-4977. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website. The emergency rule change can be found at the [OSPI Rulemaking Activity](#) website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Kathe Taylor, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Learning and Teaching

CR:kt

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.