

**RESCIND BOARD REPORT 86-0806-ED3
AND ADOPT A NEW POLICY ON
PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 11 AND 12**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Board rescind Board Report 86-0806-ED3 and adopt a new Policy on Physical Education for Students Enrolled in Grades 11 and 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to implement the waiver approved by the Illinois General Assembly from the daily physical education requirement found in 105 ILCS 5/27-6 as it relates to students in grades 11 and 12. The waiver was granted in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g and covers the period beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012.

POLICY TEXT:

I. Background

The Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/27-6 requires that students receive a daily physical education class. However, the Illinois School Code also authorizes a school board to excuse students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 from engaging in daily physical education courses if those pupils request to be excused for any of the following reasons:

- (1) participation in an interscholastic athletic program;
- (2) to enroll in academic classes which are required for admission to an institution of higher learning, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being denied admission to the institution of his or her choice;
- (3) to enroll in academic classes which are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being unable to graduate;
- (4) participating in a marching band program for credit; or
- (5) participation in a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program.

In lieu of administering individual P.E. waiver requests from students, the district sought a general waiver from the State to excuse students in grades 11 and 12 from completing a daily physical education course in order to support the district's goals to: (1) to improve student academic performance by promoting enrollment into academic classes, (2) to increase the rigor of high school coursework, (3) to improve student enrollment in post secondary institutions, and (4) to reduce the administrative burden of issuing individual physical education waivers.

The Chicago Public Schools was granted a waiver to excuse, for a period of five years, all eleventh and twelfth graders from physical education in order for these students to enroll in academic classes for both admission to an institution of higher learning and for graduation from high school.

II. Requirements

While the waiver is in effect, the following requirements shall apply:

- (1) Students must enroll in the following courses during grades 9 and 10:
 - Physical Education I/Health or ROTC I/Health; and
 - Physical Education II/Drivers Education or ROTC II/Driver's Education

Students that do not successfully complete such courses during grades 9 and 10 must successfully complete the courses in grades 11 and 12;

- (2) Students must satisfy all course credits related to physical education that are required by the Board for graduation;
- (3) Students in grades 11 and 12 do not need to apply for an individual waiver from enrolling in a daily physical education course;
- (4) Students may register for physical education courses during grades 11 and 12 as an elective;
- (5) The Chicago Public Schools shall continue to offer 11th and 12th grade students a variety of programs and activities that provide sports and exercise-related programming and opportunities and support physical development. This variety of offerings shall allow students to achieve Goals 19, 20, and 21 of the Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development; and
- (6) The Office of High Schools and High School Programs shall monitor student participation in physical fitness related programs and activities and shall annually evaluate student fitness rates through the Presidential Physical Fitness Exam or other fitness exams.

LEGAL REFERENCES: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; 105 ILCS 5/27-6; Waiver from 105 ILCS 5/27-6 approved by the Illinois General Assembly for the period beginning July 1, 2007 until June 30, 2012.

Approved For Consideration:


Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 


Patrick Rocks
General Counsel