

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

December 11, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Physical Education—Comparisons with Other Jurisdictions and Impact on Staffing (10-08-19-05)

During Mr. Tinbite's previous New Business item discussion, Board members requested the following information:

Question A

Mrs. O'Neill requested that staff benchmark with other jurisdictions regarding their practices and outcomes on this same subject matter.

Response

There is no ability to waive physical education graduation requirements set forth by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The MSDE physical education credit requirement for graduation from a public high school in Maryland is one-half credit (Attachment A). A benchmarking review across Maryland school districts indicated a range of physical education graduation requirements from one-half to one credit (Attachment B). Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is 1 of 10 districts that require a one-credit graduation requirement for physical education and do not permit substitutions or waivers for the additional one-half physical education credit established at the local school system.

Question B

Ms. Dixon requested information regarding the impact that implementing such a plan regarding physical education credits would have on staffing. Would implementation of this new credit option result in a reduction in force for some physical education teachers?

Response

For MCPS students to earn academic credit for participation in MCPS interscholastic athletic programs, the potential impact may result in a reduction of physical education course sections at the high school level. Given that the participation in MCPS interscholastic athletics has experienced an upward trend, with 20,272 students participating in the 2018–2019 school year, the number of students who potentially could earn physical education credits through interscholastic athletics could be significant in a potential reduction of the physical education teaching workforce spanning time. A review of physical education credit options will be presented to the Board in February 2020.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MBM:MVN:NTH:enr

Attachments

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mr. Murphy

Dr. Grant

Ms. Webb



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

To: Supervisors of Physical Education

From: Susan C. Spinnato, Director of Instructional Programs

Date: August 13, 2018

Re: Physical Education Graduation Requirement

This is to advise you that under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.04.13.01, there is no provision for waiver of the Physical Education graduation requirement.

However, a student may participate in a modified program of physical education based on the physical limitations or medical condition of the student. An individualized program must be developed and approved by the physical education teacher, parent or guardian, principal, and supervisor.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at susan.spinnato@maryland.gov or 410-767-0349.


 Graduation Course Requirements by Local School System
 May 2016

	English	Math*	Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Phys Ed	Health	Computer Applications	Financial Literacy	Tech Ed	Electives ** (08)			Credit Middle School	TOTAL
											World Language	Career	Advanced Tech		
MSDE	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	NA	21
Allegany	4	4	3	3	1	1	0.5		0.5	1	2	4-6	2	Yes	23
Anne Arundel	4	4	3	3	1	1	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	26
Baltimore City	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4-6	2	Yes	21
Baltimore County	4	3	3	3.5	1	1	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	21
Calvert	4	4	3	3	1	0.5	0.5		0.5	1	2	4	2	Yes	23.5
Caroline	4	3(4)	3	3	1	1	1		(1)	1	2	4(3+)	2	Yes	24
Carroll	4	4	3	3	1	1	0.5		0.5	1	2	4-9	2	Yes	25
Cecil	4	4	3	4	1	1	1			1	2	4-10	2	Yes***	25
Charles	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5		1	1	2	6	2	Yes	23
Dorchester	4	4	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	23
Frederick	4	4	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	25
Garrett	4	4	4	3	1	0.5	0.5		1	1	2	4	2	No	23
Harford	4	4	3	3	1	1	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	26
Howard	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4-5	2	Yes	21
Kent	4	4	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	23
Montgomery	4	4	3	3	1	1	0.5			1	2	4-9	2	Yes	22
Prince George's	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4-10	2	Yes	21
Queen Anne's	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	26
St. Mary's	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	21
Somerset	4	4	4	4	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4-6	2	Yes	24
Talbot	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	22
Washington	4	4	3	3	1	1	1			1	2	4	2	Yes	24
Wicomico	4	3	3	3	1	1	0.5			1	2	4	2	Yes	21
Worcester	4	3	3	3	1	0.5	0.5			1	2	4-10	2	Yes	21

*Beginning with students entering the 9th grade class in the 2014-2015 school year, each student shall enroll in a mathematics course in each year of high school that the student attends, up to a maximum of 4 years of attendance, unless in the 5th or 6th year a mathematics course is needed to meet a graduation requirement.

** Electives include: 2 credits of World language or 2 credits of American Sign Language or 2 credits of advanced technology education and 3 credits in electives; OR at a minimum 4 credits by successfully completing a State-approved career and technology program and 1 credit in an elective.

Each local school system has specific elective requirements; check with the school counselor.

*** Cecil: Middle school credits do not count toward graduation.

Must Be Included in Requirements

MSDE	Algebra, Geometry plus one additional math credit; Biology plus 2 credits in earth, life, environmental science, or physical sciences that includes laboratory experiences; US History, World History, Local/State/National government; Electives, Attendance, Service-Learning requirements and High School Assessment requirements.
Baltimore City	English, Algebra and World Lang. must be taken sequentially; Class of 2015-4 math credits
Baltimore County	1 credit Algebra, 1 credit Geometry, 0.5 credit Economics
Calvert	Additional credit in 1 of several specified content areas, 0.5 credit Financial Literacy-Class of 2016
Caroline	4 credits in Career; Credits reflected in () begin with entering 9th grade students in 2014-2015 school year
Carroll	2 years of same language and 0.5 Financial literacy
Cecil	1 Social Studies credit per year beyond grade 8
Frederick	3 credits in Career pathway, one course must be one of the designated courses that includes financial literacy content
Harford	4 credits in Career pathway
Montgomery	1 Science credit must be Physical Science
Prince George's	4 credits must be earned after completion of Grade 11; Effective with 9th grade beginning 2014-2015 school year, 4 credits will be required in mathematics
St. Mary's	University Sequence Requirements (Math 4 credits, Language -2, Electives-2) and Career and Technology Education Sequence (Math-3, CTE Sequence (no language) and Elective-1), PE/Health 1 credit total
Somerset	1 credit in Environmental Science, 1 credit Contemporary Issues
Talbot	Enrollment in a fourth math course is required.