



**Mohammed Choudhury**  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**To:** Coordinators and Supervisors of Standards-Based Physical Education  
**From:** Jason Semanoff, Director of Comprehensive Health and Physical Education  
**Date:** August 01, 2023  
**Subject:** Student Participation in Standards-Based Physical Education Programs

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### Standards-Based Physical Education Requirements

Local education agencies (LEAs) must provide an instructional program in physical education for all students in grades PreK-8 each year to meet the requirements of the [State Framework](#). Further, each LEA must offer a standards-based physical education program in grades 9-12, enabling students to meet graduation requirements and select electives that align with the State Framework.

Amendments to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) [13A.04.13.01](#) became effective on July 12, 2021. For example, local education agencies (LEAs) may not:

- Authorize a student to substitute other activities for a standards-based physical education program for graduation credits, such as interscholastic sports, community-based sports, physical therapy, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), or marching band;
- Waive the standards-based physical education requirement to meet the graduation requirement;
- Excuse students from standards-based physical education to participate in other content area classes or to complete classwork assignments in other content areas; or
- Withhold a student from the standards-based physical education program as punishment unless the student is suspended.

### Students with Disabilities

LEAs must provide reasonable accommodations to ensure [students with disabilities](#) have an equal opportunity to participate in mainstream standards-based physical education programs to the fullest extent possible. Education Article, §7-4B, Annotated Code of Maryland requires adapted, allied, or unified standards-based physical education programs to be made available and adequately funded by the LEA. A student's individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan may reflect how students will meet standards-based physical education program outcomes.

### Temporarily Injury or Illness

An individualized action plan must be developed in collaboration with the parent/guardian, teacher, and, when appropriate, a medical care provider for students who are temporarily unable to participate in the standards-based physical education program. This action plan must provide appropriate learning experiences aligned with the State Framework.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at [jason.semanoff@maryland.gov](mailto:jason.semanoff@maryland.gov).