

SENATE BILL 1967

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49,
Chapter 6, relative to physical education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding
SECTIONS 2-4 as a new, appropriately designated part.

SECTION 2. As used in this part:

(1) "Department" means the department of education; and

(2) "Physical education" is a planned instructional program focused on physical
exercise.

SECTION 3.

(a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, the department shall evaluate
in each academic year the physical education curriculum in all public elementary,
middle, and high schools in the state.

(b) The department shall make a report of the evaluation required by subsection
(a) to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction and programs
committee of the house of representatives by July 1, 2017, and every July 1 thereafter.

(c) The report shall include:

(1) The amount of physical education LEAs are offering in elementary,
middle, and high schools, including:

(A) The number of students taking physical education;

(B) The number of days per year students are taking physical
education;

(C) The number of class periods per week of physical education;
(D) The total minutes of physical education per week; and
(E) Whether physical education is a graduation requirement in high school;

(2) Whether LEAs are using a planned, kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) sequential physical education curriculum that adheres to national and state standards for physical education, and whether the curriculum is systematically reviewed and updated;

(3)

(A) How many teachers of physical education are licensed with a physical education endorsement and have completed an accredited teacher preparation program to teach physical education; and

(B) If some teachers do not meet the criteria in subdivision (c)(3)(A), a description of plans for ensuring all physical education teachers will seek these credentials and of the progress teachers have made for meeting these teaching quality goals;

(4) Whether:

(A) Equipment and facilities are inventoried on an annual basis;

(B) Equipment reported damaged or missing is replaced on annual basis;

(C) The facilities are safe for students;

(D) Adequate space is provided for all students to participate at the same time; and

(E) Physical education teachers have equipment requests that cannot be covered by the LEA's annual budget;

(5) Whether LEAs allow waivers or substitutions for physical education;

(6) Whether modifications or adaptations allow physical education courses to meet the needs of students with disabilities, instead of offering waivers to students with disabilities; and

(7) Whether LEAs allow or require students to leave physical education to prepare for other classes or standardized tests.

SECTION 4. The department is encouraged to include the following in the report required by Section 3:

(1) Whether teachers or administrators assign or withhold physical activity as punishment;

(2) Whether LEAs have other physical activity opportunities, including a Safe Routes to School program, classroom activity breaks, and club, intramural, or team sports;

(3) Whether there are requirements for fitness, cognitive, and affective assessment in physical education that are based on student improvement and knowledge gain; and

(4) Whether LEAs are implementing the Presidential Youth Fitness Program or a similar program that integrates student fitness assessment, annual professional development for teachers that is specific to their field, and recognition for students who are achieving a healthy fitness zone.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.