

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

To: District School Superintendents

From: Jim Warford

Date: July 7, 2004

Subject: 2004 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES RELATING TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The 2004 Legislature passed Senate Bill (CS/CS/SB) 354, Public School Educational Instruction, which creates a new section of law and amends current law relating to physical education. This memorandum will address those changes and requirements in physical education and provide general information.

To assist districts in the implementation of this legislation, the Department has scheduled conference calls for July 13, 14, and 15, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (see attached schedule). Districts may participate in any one of these sessions. Because required revisions related to physical education must be included in your 2005-2006 school improvement plans, and there are other pressing deadlines associated with this bill, we encourage you to participate in one of these teleconference sessions.

JIM WARFORD
K-12 Chancellor

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CS/CS/SB 354 provisions related to physical education are as follows:

- directs the Department of Education to conduct a study of the status of physical education in Florida's schools and to develop recommendations for changes to physical education programs
- requires the Department to select or develop a student fitness assessment and provide support materials to the districts
- requires schools to include student health and fitness in their school improvement plans
- requires school districts to develop appropriate physical education programs that provide at least a moderate intensity level
- requires school districts to develop a written policy detailing their physical education programs by December 1, 2004, and to report on the adopted policy to the Department by December 15, 2004
- requires the Department to approve a state university physical education teacher education program to develop and implement an Internet-based clearinghouse for physical education professional development programs that may be accessed and used by all instructional personnel.

A more detailed summary of this legislation is attached. Please note that SB 354 also includes provisions related to the Middle Grades Reform Act; these are addressed in DPS Memorandum 04-135.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this bill as it pertains to physical education, please contact Faye Johnson or Jenifer Thorn, Coordinated School Health Program, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools.

JW/cc

Attachments (2)

cc: Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction
District Administrators of Physical Education