

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**K-12: 2007-61**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jeanine Blomberg, Commissioner

**DATE:** March 12, 2007

**SUBJECT: One Credit in Physical Education to Include Integration of Health Graduation Options**

As you know, as a result of legislation in 2006, the current graduation requirements were changed with a new requirement. "One credit in physical education with the integration of health" will take the place of the existing graduation requirements.

Due to the overwhelming feedback we received regarding our January 8 memorandum that described the Department's interpretation of this new law, we convened a meeting of numerous stakeholders to review, once again, whether the issue could be addressed in a way that takes care of a variety of concerns.

This meeting was held on March 9 and included representatives from Physical Education and Health Education, as well as school board and superintendent representatives. The guiding principles for developing a resolution to this issue included (1) what is good for Florida students, and (2) providing districts with flexibility.

District Superintendents

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After much discussion and robust debate, the final decision was as follows:

**Districts may choose from three options for students entering ninth grade 2007-2008 to fulfill their Physical Education graduation requirement:**

**Option 1: Students must take ½ credit in Physical Education and ½ credit in Personal Fitness (Teacher Certification requirements: Physical Education).**

**Option 2: Students must take the one credit HOPE Core course (Teacher Certification requirements: Physical Education and Health Education co-teaching the class or a single teacher who is dually certified).**

**Option 3: Students must take the one credit HOPE Physical Education Variation course (Teacher Certification requirement: Physical Education).**

The second issue that was brought forth was summer 2007 credit. Several districts requested flexibility in offering these courses during the summer of 2007 for incoming ninth grade students. The Department will take the necessary steps to allow districts the flexibility to offer students these courses for credit beginning in the summer of 2007.

We will be approaching the legislature for clarification regarding the language of the current statute [1003.428 2(a)(6)] for future planning and implementation. The Department is fully committed to further developing a long-term partnership with sister agencies, school district experts, and universities in our efforts to promote optimal health and wellness for Florida students.

JB/lf/am

cc: Assistant or Deputy Superintendents for Curriculum  
District Curriculum Directors  
District Health Education Coordinators  
District Physical Education Coordinators  
District Guidance Counselors  
Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinators