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Just Read, Florida!

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford

DATE: December 9, 2004

SUBJECT: **District Physical Education Policy Submission Process – Due December 15, 2004**

Section 1003.455(2), Florida Statutes, states that each district school board shall, no later than December 1, 2004, adopt a written physical education policy that details the school district's physical education program and expected program outcomes. It further states that each district school board shall provide a copy of its written policy to the Department of Education by December 15, 2004. If a district does not adopt a physical education policy by December 1, 2004, it shall, at a minimum, implement a mandatory physical education program for kindergarten through grade 5 which provides students with 30 minutes of physical education each day, three days per week (see link to statute below):

http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch1003/SEC455.HTM&Title=->2004->Ch1003->Section%20455#1003.455

JIM WARFORD
K -12 Chancellor

Districts may provide a copy of the written policy to the Department of Education via e-mail or by regular mail. Policies must be received in the Department of Education on or by **December 15, 2004.** To submit the policy via e-mail, attach the electronic document file (either as a Microsoft Word or a PDF file) or provide in the e-mail the web link to the policy and send to Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org. To submit by regular mail, please send a hard copy of the policy and an electronic copy (Microsoft Word or PDF file) on a disk, to:

Ms. Lorraine Allen
Office of Safe and Healthy Schools
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Room 501
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

A faxed copy will be accepted as long as an electronic version of the policy is submitted within a reasonable timeframe after the deadline. The fax number is 850-245-9978 or Suncom 205-9978.

If a district cannot meet the December 15, 2004, deadline due to the impact of the recent hurricanes, please inform Ms. Allen as soon as possible. The Department will deal with this as a hurricane-related waiver. Requests for such a waiver should include the specific date for the submission of the policy. A waiver must be submitted to:

Mr. Jim Warford, K-12 Chancellor
Division of Public Schools and Student Achievement
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Room 514
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Also attached are "Questions and Answers" regarding this requirement. If additional clarification is needed, or if you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Allen or Ms. Thorn, using the contact information provided in this memorandum.

JW/lha

Attachment

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction
District Physical Education Contacts/Supervisors

Florida Department of Education
Written Physical Education Policy
Pursuant to Section 1003.455(2), Florida Statutes
"Questions and Answers"

Policy Requirements

Q1: Is it appropriate to adopt the written physical education policy in the Student Progression Plan?

A1: The law does not stipulate where the policy must be placed; only that the district must have one. The policy may be incorporated into the Student Progression Plan or other document as determined by the district.

Q2: Are there specific requirements that must be addressed in the written physical education policy?

A2: Yes, the law provides that the written physical education policy should detail the school district's physical education program and expected program outcomes. *(The law does not stipulate that it should be separated into programs for elementary, middle, and high school.)*

Q3: Can the district's written policy provide for physical education for less than 30 minutes a day, three times per week?

A3: Yes, there are no mandates related to frequency or duration for physical education in the law, except in the absence of an adopted policy. The Department is interested in documenting the current policies as they exist in district policy.

Policy Recommendations

Q4: The law states, "Physical education shall consist of physical activities of at least a moderate intensity level and for a duration sufficient to provide a significant health benefit to students, subject to the differing capabilities of students." What does "duration" mean in this instance?

A4: The Legislature did not define "duration" in this section of law. Districts are expected to fulfill the spirit of the law when determining their physical education policy.

Q5: What are the national recommendations or standards districts should follow when developing their written physical education policy?

A5: At this time, the Department is not promoting the use of any single national policy. This is a matter of local control, and districts must make this decision. For information only, links are provided below to national organizations and their recommendations for physical education programs:

- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance: http://www.aahperd.org
- National Association for Sport and Physical Education: http://www.aahperd.org/naspe/
- American Heart Association: http://www.americanheart.org/

Office of Safe and Healthy Schools
Florida Department of Education
November 2004