



# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY BULLETIN

**TITLE:** Physical Education Exemptions

**NUMBER:** BUL-2457.0

**ISSUER:** Robert Collins, Chief Instructional Officer  
Instructional Services, Secondary

**DATE:** May 8, 2006

**ROUTING**  
 Local District Superintendents  
 Local District Administrators of Instruction  
 Local District Directors of School Services  
 Principals  
 APSCS  
 Counselors  
 Physical Education Department Chairs  
 Physical Education Teachers

**POLICY:** This bulletin establishes criteria and clarification for temporary, permanent, and partial physical education course exemptions for students, who are ill or injured, participate in one-half or less of a full-day school schedule, do not pass the physical performance test, or participate in off-campus physical education activities.

**MAJOR CHANGES:** This bulletin replaces the Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Services Bulletin No. BUL-595.1 titled “Procedures for Off-Campus Physical Education,” dated April 5, 2004. The content has been revised to reflect updated information and current California Education Code.

**GUIDELINES:** The following guidelines apply.

I. BACKGROUND

Recent California Education Code changes have altered criteria for exemption from physical education course participation. This bulletin clarifies the criteria that govern current physical education course exemptions and exemptions that are granted after July 1, 2007.

II. TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT EXEMPTION FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Temporary or Permanent Exemptions (PE EXEMPT-DR 339901)

Temporary exemption from participating in a physical education course may be granted (EC §51241) to a pupil if the pupil is one of the following:

- A. Ill or injured and a modified program to meet the needs of the student cannot be provided.
- B. Enrolled for one-half, or less, of the work normally required for full-time pupils.



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Permanent exemption from participation in a physical education course may be granted if the pupil complies with any one of the following:

- A. Is 16 years of age or older and has been enrolled in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade for one academic year or longer and has passed both ADV PE 1AB and ADV PE 2AB;
- B. Is enrolled as a postgraduate pupil; or
- C. Is enrolled in a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp school where pupils are scheduled for recreation and exercise. This pertains to the time the student is enrolled in these programs.

### Physical Education Exemption Until July 1, 2007

Until July 1, 2007 and with his or her consent, a pupil may be exempted from courses in physical education for two years at any time during grades 10 to 12, inclusive. (EC §51241) This requires students to enroll in two years of core content physical education courses (ADV PE 1AB (330105/06) and ADV PE 2AB (330121/22) in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and one additional year in grades 10 through 12, respectively, to meet the two-year physical education graduation requirements.

### Physical Education Exemption After July 1, 2007

After July 1, 2007 and with his or her consent, if the pupil has passed the physical performance test administered in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the School Board may grant the pupil exemption from courses in physical education for two years any time during grades 10 to 12 inclusive. (EC §51241) If the pupil has not passed the physical performance test, he or she must enroll in physical education courses in succeeding years and be administered the physical performance test until the student passes the test. Failure to pass the physical performance test does not alter the pupil's graduation status.

### Physical Education Exemption for Athletic Participation (PE REQUIRE MET 339949)

A school board may exempt any four-year or senior high school pupil from attending courses of physical education, if the pupil is engaged in a regular school-sponsored interscholastic athletic program carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours. (EC §51242) During the off-season, athletes are to be enrolled in an advanced conditioning course (ADV COND 330205) for athletics that can and should include conditioning and training for the sport as well as the other content areas described in the California Education Code that is not included in their sport. The conditioning course is provided for pupils who have been enrolled on an athletic team and who are actively engaged in competition. This physical education course offered in conjunction with the athletic program that is offered during the school day satisfies the physical education course credit requirement for high school graduation.



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### Physical Education Exemption for Certain Pupils in Grade 12

The provisions of EC §51246 indicate that the School Board may exempt any pupil enrolled in his or her last semester or quarter, as the case may be, of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade who, pursuant to §46145 (minimum required courses per semester or quarter) and §46147 (exemption for certain 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend less than the minimum school day), is permitted to attend school less than 240 or 180 minutes per day, from attending courses of physical education; provided, however, that such pupil may not be exempted pursuant to this section from attending courses of physical education if such pupil would, after such exemption, attend school for 240 minutes or more per day.

### III. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION FOR CONTENT AREA EXEMPTION WITHIN A PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE

Physical education is required to be offered to all students except those provided with temporary or permanent exemptions as identified above in section II. (EC §51210, EC §51220, EC §51222) However, on occasion, a secondary school will have a student who possesses exceptional talent or ability far beyond that of his or her peers. The talent or ability is being extended or perfected in an off-campus, non-school related environment under supervision of an authority competent to assist the student towards maximum achievement. In this rare circumstance, a principal may permit a student to be exempted from a physical education content area within a physical education course due to a student possessing exceptional talent or ability and who engages in a vigorous training regimen outside of the regular school day. However, a student may not be exempted from an entire physical education course because of an off-campus training program.

To be considered for a partial course exemption:

- A. The student must possess an exceptional talent or ability far beyond that possessed by his or her peers
- B. The talent or ability is being perfected or extended in an off-campus activity under the supervision of an authority competent to assist in the development of the talent or ability to the maximum
- C. The talent or ability shows evidence when perfected or extended of being categorized as noteworthy or singularly identified by the greater community

### IV. CLARIFICATION OF COURSE CREDIT TO MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A principal who so identifies a student as participating during non-school time in such an activity which requires an intensive amount of practice may permit the student to use the off-campus activity to partially meet the general



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physical education course requirement for the content area of instruction in which the student is exceptionally talented. For example, the student who displays exceptional skill in gymnastics and who engages in off-campus gymnastics training after regular school hours may be excused only from the gymnastics portion of the physical education course.

The student fulfills the graduation requirement for physical education by completing the general physical education course with the understanding that credit has been earned in the exempted content area due to the exceptional talent demonstrated in that activity. The partial course exemption should not be the cause for any adverse marking practice for the course.

Exemption from a physical education course content area does not, however, permit the student to be exempted from engaging in a full instructional school day. (EC §51241.2d) Therefore, students who are exempted from a physical education course content area may not begin school after the regular starting time or leave school before the regular dismissal time. During this time, the student may remain enrolled in the physical education course but does not engage in the physical education instruction. The student may be assigned service responsibilities or may be enrolled in an alternative course for no credit during this unit of instruction.

**AUTHORITY:** This is a District policy and a recommended State law.

**RELATED** California Education Code Section 51210, 51220, 51222.

**RESOURCES:** California Education Code Section 51241-51242, 51246.

**ASSISTANCE:** For assistance or further information, please contact Chad Fenwick, K-12 Physical Education Advisor, or Jeanie Leighton, Director, Middle School Programs, at (213) 241-6040.