

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Access to Physical Education in New York City *must be improved*

Physical education (PE) is a critical component of the school day. However, NYC Department of Education (DOE) schools are failing to meet the State’s requirements for PE.

- A 2011 audit conducted by the NYC Comptroller found that **none** of the elementary schools surveyed complied fully with state regulations.
- Further, data from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene suggests that students of color disproportionately lack access to PE.

Comprehensive, quality PE has many benefits

- Prevents childhood obesity
- Increases focus, retention, and improves sleeping patterns
- Enhances learning, leading to improved academic outcomes
- Instills good habits for healthy living into adulthood



Our children have a *right to physical education*

Lack of access to comprehensive, quality PE threatens our children’s **health** and **academic** success. New York State has set out clear requirements for school provision of PE. These include **specific** standards for instructional time, frequency, space, and personnel.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Who can teach?</u>
<u>K-3rd</u>	Daily	120 minutes/week	Certified PE teachers; Classroom teachers supervised by a certified PE teacher
<u>4th-6th</u>	3 times/week	120 minutes/week	Certified PE teachers; Teachers supervised by a certified PE teacher
<u>7th-8th</u>	3x/week in one semester; 2x/week in the other	90 minutes/week	Certified PE teachers only
<u>9th-12th</u>	3x/week in one semester; 2x/week in the other	No minimum time requirement	Certified PE teachers only

The Phys Ed for All Campaign

It is important that the city ensure equitable access to quality PE in DOE schools, especially in low-income communities of color. The **Phys Ed for All Campaign** is pursuing legislation that would require the DOE to report on all aspects of physical education (time, space, personnel, curriculum) for each NYC public school. This information will empower parents, schools, and advocates and help us develop targeted solutions to improving access to quality PE. Join us in fighting for our children’s right to healthy, active lives. Please visit www.physed4all.org to learn more.

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