



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 22, 2018

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

**SUBJECT:** Health and Physical Education Guidance

The Michigan Department of Education has received several questions from the field regarding requirements for health and physical education for students, K-12. This serves to clarify Section 1502 of the Revised School Code which states:

*“health and physical education for pupils of both sexes shall be established and provided in all public schools of this state. Subject to subsection (2), allowing credit for a pupil’s participation in extracurricular athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical activity as meeting the physical education requirement, each pupil attending public school in this state who is physically fit and capable of doing so shall take the course in physical education.”*

Therefore, health and physical education must be provided at the elementary level, the middle school level, and at the high school level as part of graduation requirements.

How much and how often health and physical education is provided is a local district decision that should be based on data regarding student needs, research and best practice, as well as aligned to the Michigan K-12 health and physical education standards. The physical education standards can be found at [www.michigan.gov/physed](http://www.michigan.gov/physed). For a copy of the current health education standards email a request to [TeachoutM@michigan.gov](mailto:TeachoutM@michigan.gov).

Questions regarding the content of this memo may be directed to the Health and Physical Education Consultant, Mary Teachout at 517-335-1730 or [TeachoutM@michigan.gov](mailto:TeachoutM@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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