

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 24, 2026

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1481

By: Seifried of the Senate

4 and

5 Caldwell (Chad) of the  
6 House

7  
8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
9 Section 11-103.9, which relates to physical education  
10 program requirements; requiring certain schools to  
11 provide students in certain grades certain amount of  
12 recess per day as a condition of accreditation;  
13 allowing recess to be divided into two periods;  
14 requiring recess to consist of certain play;  
15 prohibiting removal of recess as a form of  
16 discipline; removing language encouraging certain  
17 amount of recess in certain grades; updating  
18 statutory language; providing an effective date; and  
19 declaring an emergency.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.9, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 11-103.9. A. Except as otherwise provided for in this  
24 section, the State Board of Education shall require, as a condition  
of accreditation, that school districts provide to all students  
physical education programs which may include athletics.

B. The Board shall require, as a condition of accreditation,  
that public elementary schools provide instruction, for students in

1 full-day kindergarten and grades one through five, in physical  
2 education or exercise programs for a minimum of an average of sixty  
3 (60) minutes each week. The time students participate in recess  
4 shall not be counted toward the sixty-minutes-per-week physical  
5 education requirement. Schools may exclude from participation in  
6 the physical education or exercise programs required in this  
7 subsection those students who have been placed into an ~~in-house~~ in-  
8 school suspension or detention class or placement or those students  
9 who are under an in-school restriction or are subject to an  
10 administrative disciplinary action.

11 C. The Board shall require, as a condition of accreditation,  
12 that public elementary schools provide to students in full-day  
13 kindergarten and grades one through five, in addition to the  
14 requirements set forth in subsection B of this section, an average  
15 of sixty (60) minutes each week of physical activity, which may  
16 include, but not be limited to, physical education, exercise  
17 programs, fitness breaks, ~~recess,~~ and classroom activities, and  
18 wellness and nutrition education. Each school district board of  
19 education shall determine the specific activities and means of  
20 compliance with the provisions of this subsection, giving  
21 consideration to the recommendations of each school's Healthy and  
22 Fit School Advisory Committee as submitted to the school principal  
23 pursuant to the provisions of Section 24-100a of this title.

24

1       D. The Board shall require, as a condition of accreditation,  
2 that public elementary schools provide to students in full-day  
3 kindergarten and grades one through five, in addition to the  
4 requirements of subsections B and C of this section, forty (40)  
5 minutes of recess per school day, which may be divided into two  
6 recess periods of twenty (20) minutes each. Recess shall consist of  
7 supervised, unstructured time for play. No student shall be  
8 prohibited from participating in recess as a form of discipline.

9       E. The Board shall disseminate information to each school  
10 district on the benefits of physical education programs and shall  
11 strongly encourage districts to provide physical education  
12 instruction to students in grades six through twelve. The Board  
13 shall also strongly encourage school districts to incorporate  
14 physical activity into the school day by providing ~~to students in~~  
15 ~~full-day kindergarten and grades one through five at least a twenty-~~  
16 ~~minute daily recess, which shall be in addition to the sixty (60)-~~  
17 ~~minutes of physical education as required by subsection B of this~~  
18 ~~section, and by allowing~~ all students brief physical activity breaks  
19 throughout the day, physical activity clubs, and special events.

20       ~~E.~~ F. Instruction in physical education required ~~in~~ by this  
21 section shall be aligned with the subject matter standards as  
22 adopted by the Board.

23       ~~F.~~ G. The physical education curriculum shall be sequential,  
24 developmentally appropriate, and designed, implemented, and

1 evaluated to enable students to develop the motor and self-  
2 management skills and knowledge necessary to participate in physical  
3 activity throughout life. Each school district shall establish  
4 specific objectives and goals the district intends to accomplish  
5 through the physical education curriculum.

6 ~~G.~~ H. In identifying the essential knowledge and skills, the  
7 State Board of Education shall ensure that the subject matter  
8 standards for physical education:

9 1. Emphasize the knowledge and skills capable of being used  
10 during a lifetime of regular physical activity;

11 2. Are consistent with national physical education standards  
12 for:

13 a. the information that students should learn about  
14 physical activity, and

15 b. the physical activities that students should be able  
16 to perform;

17 3. Require that, on a weekly basis, at least fifty percent  
18 (50%) of the physical education class be used for actual student  
19 physical activity and that the activity be, to the extent  
20 practicable, at a moderate or vigorous level;

21 4. Offer students an opportunity to choose among many types of  
22 physical activity in which to participate;

23 5. Offer students both cooperative and competitive games;  
24

1           6. Meet the needs of students of all physical ability levels,  
2 including students who have a disability, chronic health problem, or  
3 other special need that precludes the student from participating in  
4 regular physical education instruction but who might be able to  
5 participate in physical education that is suitably adapted and, if  
6 applicable, included in the student's individualized education  
7 program;

8           7. Teach self-management and movement skills;

9           8. Teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation  
10 in physical activity;

11           9. Promote student participation in physical activity outside  
12 of school; and

13           10. Allow physical education classes to be an enjoyable  
14 experience for students.

15           ~~H.~~ I. The Board shall ~~adopt~~ promulgate rules to implement the  
16 provisions of this section.

17           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

18           SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
23 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS  
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