Policy Title: Physical Education

Code Number: 602.11

The physical education program is to provide opportunities and resources for students to acquire knowledge, discipline, and skills to develop physical fitness, holistic wellness, and a vigorous, healthy lifestyle.

All students physically able, if not otherwise excused, shall be required to participate in the physical education program appropriate for their grade level and students in grades 9-12 must participate in a minimum of one half unit of physical education during each year they are enrolled. Students may be excused from physical education courses for medical or religious reasons in accordance with the procedures in AR 602.11.

Students in grades 9-12 may also be excused from physical education courses and are exempt from applicable physical activity requirements while:

1. participating in the Legislative Page Program at the state capitol for a regular session of the general assembly; or
2. enrolled in a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. (Students who complete a semester of such training programs shall receive 1/8th unit of physical education credit).

A twelfth-grade student may be excused from the physical education requirement by the Building Administrator of the school in which the student is enrolled under one of the following circumstances:

1. The student is enrolled in a cooperative, work-study, or other educational program authorized by the school which requires the student's absence from the school premises during the school day.
2. The student is enrolled in academic courses not otherwise available.
3. The student is participating in an organized and supervised athletic program which requires at least as much time of participation as one-fourth unit of physical education per semester.

For purposes of this requirement, an organized and supervised athletic program is one that is sponsored by the school or District and employs licensed and appropriately endorsed staff. To qualify as an organized and supervised athletic program, for example, cheerleading squads, dance squads, and show choirs must be supervised by licensed employees or those with coaching endorsements.

Students in grades nine through eleven may be permitted to be excused from the physical education requirement by the Building Administrator in order to enroll in academic courses not otherwise available to the student.
A student may be excused by the Building Administrator of the school in which the student is enrolled, in consultation with the student’s counselor, for up to one semester per year if the parent or guardian of the student requests that the student be excused from the physical education requirement. A student making such a request must, at some time during the period for which the excuse is sought, be a participant in an organized and supervised program which requires at least as much time of participation per week as one-half unit of physical education. One-half unit per year equals 1,800 minutes.

All requests for a student to be excused from physical education requirements must be submitted in writing by the student’s parent or guardian to the Building Administrator.

The Building Administrator shall inform the Superintendent of any student so excused.

Policy Development
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