

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:260 Exemption from Physical Education

Title has been updated. Original Title: Exemption from Physical Activity

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. ~~State law prohibits a school board from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District.~~ An excuse because of medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request.

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits a school board from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District. [PRESSPlus1](#)

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 9-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student's participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education must receive that service in accordance with his or her Individualized Educational Program/Plan (IEP). [PRESSPlus2](#)

A student in grades 9-12, unless otherwise stated, may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated in 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students*.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records showing that the criteria set forth in this policy were applied to the student's individual circumstances, as appropriate. [PRESSPlus3](#)

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical. The following considerations will be used to determine when a student shall return to a physical education course: [PRESSPlus4](#)

1. The time of year when the student's participation ceases;
2. The student's class schedule; and
3. The student's future or planned additional participation in activities qualifying for substitutions for physical education as outlined in policy 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students*.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-6.

225 ILCS 60/, Medical Practice Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p) and §1.425(d), (e)

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:310 (Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions)

~~ADOPTED: April 25, 2013~~

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. The policy is **RENAMED** for accuracy in response to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(3) and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425, added at 40 Ill. Reg. 2990.

School boards must identify any evidence/support they will require for excuses they will deem *appropriate*. Before the board adopts this policy, it should have a conversation with the superintendent to discuss and review and/or amend the sample reasons for excusal offered in this policy. Topics for discussion include determining whether (a) the sample reasons are sufficient, (b) more reasons are needed, and/or (c) the sample reasons should be amended. These conversations should be based upon the community's needs.

Issue 93, October 2016

PRESSPlus 2. Policy language regarding excusal from physical education and adapted physical education requirements in accordance with IEPs has been relocated from policy 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students*. **Issue 93, October 2016**

PRESSPlus 3. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(f). **Issue 93, October 2016**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425, amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 11542. The board may insert additional criteria; if additional criteria is adopted, insert it and select "Adopted with Additional District Edits" as the Save Status. **Issue 99, October/November 2018**