



May 26, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

District policy IKF gives high school students who complete two seasons of district sponsored interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading the option of waiving the physical education requirement for graduation.

It is important to know that students will not receive credit for these activities and will still need all the required credits for graduation, including 6 elective credits. With this option however, students may take other electives in the place of physical education.

If you feel your student will be committed to completing two seasons of interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading and would like to drop physical education from his/her schedule, please contact the high school guidance department.

Sincerely,

Susan Witten  
Director of Teaching and Learning

Office of the Superintendent  
755 Rathmell Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43207  
PH# (614) 491-8044  
Fax# (614) 491-8323

Christopher T. Lester  
Superintendent

William Morrison  
Assistant Superintendent

Susan Witten, Ph.D.  
Director of Teaching &  
Learning

Chrysis Thompson  
Administrative Assistant to the  
Superintendent

Janice Crabtree  
Administrative Secretary/EMIS

*“Improving Achievement  
through Total  
Accountability and High  
Expectations”*

HLSD PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT  
WAIVER FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN  
DISTRICT-SPONSORED INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, MARCHING  
BAND, OR CHEERLEADING

Students who participate in two seasons of district-sponsored high school interscholastic athletics, marching-band, or cheerleading shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. (An athletic season is defined by the rules and bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association). Partial credit will not be granted.

In order to be eligible to graduate, a high school student who is excused from the physical education requirement must still complete instruction in 6 electives.

Participating in interscholastic athletics, marching band and cheerleading is a privilege, and not a right. This policy shall not in any way be construed as granting a student the right to participate in such district-sponsored activities. Board rules and policies including Code of Conduct continue to apply. In addition, any student participating in this policy shall be subject to any athletic fee and or/pay-to-participate fee.

Granting of this waiver becomes effective upon completion of the specified athletic seasons as approved by the band director, athletic or cheerleading coach/advisor and submission to the Guidance Office.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
Football	Girls Basketball	Baseball
Girls Volleyball	Boys Basketball	Softball
Cross Country	Wrestling	Boys Track
Boys Soccer	Cheerleading	Girls Track
Girls Soccer		Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis		
Cheerleading		
Marching Band		

HLSD PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT  
WAIVER FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN  
DISTRICT-SPONSORED INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, MARCHING  
BAND, OR CHEERLEADING

Students who participate in two seasons of district-sponsored high school interscholastic athletics, marching-band, or cheerleading shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. (An athletic season is defined by the rules and bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association). Partial credit will not be granted.

In order to be eligible to graduate, a high school student who is excused from the physical education requirement must still complete instruction in 6 electives.

Participating in interscholastic athletics, marching band and cheerleading is a privilege, and not a right. This policy shall not in any way be construed as granting a student the right to participate in such district-sponsored activities. Board rules and policies including Code of Conduct continue to apply. In addition, any student participating in this policy shall be subject to any athletic fee and or/pay-to-participate fee.

Granting of this waiver becomes effective upon completion of the specified athletic seasons as approved by the band director, athletic or cheerleading coach/advisor and submission to the Guidance Office.

Student Name	Grade	Parent/Guardian Signature
--------------	-------	---------------------------

Coach/Director/Advisor signature	Activity/Season	date
----------------------------------	-----------------	------

Coach/Director/Advisor signature	Activity/Season	date
----------------------------------	-----------------	------

## Ohio Department of Education

### **Frequently Asked Questions about the Physical Education Graduation Requirements**

Listed below are some of the most frequently asked questions about the Ohio Core Physical Education Graduation Requirements, as required by Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Other questions may be added in the future.

#### **Can boards of education adopt policies to exempt students from Physical Education?**

The board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the high school physical education requirement each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for at least two full seasons. If the board or authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the student to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study.

#### **How much Physical Education is required?**

Students are required to complete one-half unit of Physical Education for graduation. Both elective and traditional Physical Education courses require a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction to earn one-half unit of credit.

#### **For Physical Education, may other activities (show choirs, ROTC, non-school-sponsored athletics, etc.) which involve physical activity on the part of students be counted toward the two semesters of Physical Education?**

No. The statute specifically limits the participation to interscholastic athletics, marching band and cheerleading. There is no authority granted to a board of education to include any additional participation.

#### **Are there any other requirements students must meet beyond the two full seasons of participation in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading?**

Yes. Excused students also must complete one-half unit in another curricular area. While one-half unit of Physical Education requires a minimum of 120 hours of instruction, one-half unit in all other curricular areas requires a minimum of 60 hours of instruction. This one-half unit in another curricular area keeps the minimum number of credits required for graduation at 20.

#### **For Physical Education, what is the impact of being “cut” or quitting?**

The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” The season during which a student was “cut” or quit the activity could not be used to meet the two-season requirement.

**Can a district policy require more than the two seasons of participation in order to excuse the one-half unit of Physical Education required for graduation?**

Yes. The language “for at least two full seasons” sets a minimum requirement. A board of education could require more than two full seasons. However, to meet the excuse from Physical Education, a board cannot require a student to complete an additional physical education course or require more than one-half unit in another course of study.

**If a student participates in only one full season of an approved activity, can the student be excused from .25 units of Physical Education and thus have to take only .25 units of Physical Education to complete his or her Physical Education requirement under the Ohio Core?**

No. The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” There is no provision in the law that would permit any type of partial excuse.

**Can a local board of education add more requirements to its physical education waiver policy?**

Yes. The state establishes minimum curriculum requirements for graduation, but local boards of education may adopt additional requirements. Examples for the physical education waiver may include taking coursework from a specified list of courses or having a minimum grade point average to qualify. Regardless of the additional requirements a local board of education may impose, students must earn at least one-half credit (60 contact hours) in lieu of earning credit for physical education coursework under the policy.

OHIO REVISED CODE - 3313.603

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the high school physical education requirement each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons. If the board or authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the student to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of instruction, in another course of study.