

## **Students**

**Summary:** A student may be excused from participation in physical education for a variety of reasons by submitting a written excusal from the appropriate person based on the reason. Students who are eligible for special education services may also be excused from participation in physical education based on their IEP, Individualized Education Plan, in collaboration with their IEP team.

### **Exemption from Physical Activity**

In order to be excused from participation in physical education:

1. a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act.
2. the excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. state law prohibits the 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.

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 3-8, (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).

Students in grades 7 and 8 may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses because of his or her ongoing participation in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program. Interscholastic or extracurricular athletic programs are organized school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activities for students that are not part of the curriculum, not graded, not for credit, generally take place outside of school instructional hours, and under the direction of a coach, athletic director, or band leader. The Building Principal will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.

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.

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/27-6.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p).  
225 ILCS 60/, Medical Practice Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content)

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