



Requires teachers of health and physical education in grades K-6 in public schools to possess the appropriate endorsement to the instructional certificate

- **New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NJ AHPERD) supports legislation that requires health and physical education teachers in grades kindergarten through six in public schools to possess the appropriate instructional certificate in the subject (S-858 Turner/Diegnan/A-674 Jasey/Caputo).** NJ AHPERD acknowledges the financial limitations of districts and supports the “grandfather” provision. Please be aware that current certification for health and physical education includes K-12. No new certification is necessary.
- Ongoing educational research supports the significance of health education and physical education as essential components of a youth’s overall education experience and foundation for lifelong healthy living. Over the last two decades, health and physical education have undergone a transformation in rigor and focus and are aligned with the other core academic standards under the umbrella of the NJSLS to assert their importance in public education. A well designed physical education program provides the opportunity for students to gain knowledge of key concepts and critical skills needed to establish and maintain physically active lifestyles throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Health education programs include instruction in personal growth and development, nutrition, diseases and health conditions, social and emotional health, drugs and medicine, human relationships and sexuality.
- Instruction in health and physical education should be delivered in the school setting by New Jersey state certified teachers and nurses endorsed to teach health and physical education that assess student’s learning, motor and social skills in a safe, supportive environment. Certified health and physical education teachers receive appropriate, comprehensive training and necessary pedagogical preparation. Highly qualified health and physical education teachers base their teaching on state and/or national standards for health and physical education, establish high expectations for learning, view assessment as an integral component of the teaching and learning process, demonstrate professionalism and ethical behavior, and engage in reflective practices while systematically reviewing their curriculum, teaching practices, and assessment tools.
- Studies show that effective physical education programs increase attention, concentration and academic performance in students. Health education prepares children to make decisions that affect personal and social development. We commend the New Jersey legislature for taking steps to ensure our students are receiving appropriate instruction from qualified specialists in all health and physical education academic courses.

NJ AHPERD urges you to support this legislation, so that our students receive the well-rounded education they deserve to lead a healthy and productive life.