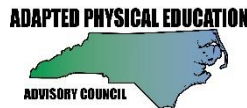




**NORTH CAROLINA
ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH**



NC Child
The Voice for North Carolina's Children



NC Department of Public Instruction Staff and Members of the State Board of Education
NC Department of Public Instruction
6367 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6300

July 26, 2017

Dear NC Department of Public Instruction Staff and Members of the State Board of Education:

We are writing to respectfully request that you include the number of minutes of physical education (PE) offered each week on the North Carolina School Report Card. This information can be gathered through the Healthy Active Children Policy, which schools already complete annually.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is based on the idea of supporting the growth and development of the whole child. PE addresses the needs of the whole child and positively impacts their physical, mental, and emotional health. Since healthy students are engaged students, it is essential to properly measure factors that help contribute to a healthier student environment. PE programs offer the best opportunity to provide physical activity to students and teach them skills and knowledge needed to establish and sustain a healthy, active lifestyle. The first step is information – it is important that parents and community members know how much PE their students receive in school.

The evidence-based Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model (WSCC) is meant to ensure students' academic and health needs are being addressed. The WSCC has ten focus areas, of which PE is one. It is imperative that North Carolina takes advantage of the unique opportunity ESSA provides to prioritize PE in the accountability plan or on the North Carolina School Report Card. PE demonstrates a collaborative approach to engaging, challenging, and supporting students and including PE in the state's accountability system would be a step towards ensuring students receive a well-rounded education.

For the sake of all North Carolina students and families, please include PE on the North Carolina School Report Card.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to North Carolina Alliance for Health Executive Director Morgan Wittman Gramann at morgan@ncallianceforhealth.org or 919.308.8800.

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