

Suggestions to Avoid Physical Education Course Credit Substitution
A Focus on Marching Band, JROTC, and Cheer/Drill Teams
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All courses and activity experiences have value for students. No one course or activity should replace another. High school scheduling can be challenging as students meet high school graduation requirements, fulfill the A to G college requirements, and select to participate in elective courses and activities. The California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance does not support high school course credit substitution. Instead, the following suggestions are offered to offer a variety of possible solutions to districts as they strive to overcome scheduling dilemmas.

- Early identification of college-bound students who will have limited elective choices will enable counselors and students to better schedule four years of classes.
- Allow priority course scheduling for students who have limited elective options to ensure they get needed courses to meet diploma and A through G requirements.
- Careful planning of the master schedule will ensure Marching Band/JROTC, etc. does not conflict with needed courses.
- Permit students to take 6 courses per year although graduation requirements may only be 220 or 230 units. This will provide them with more flexibility in scheduling.
- Allow any student who met 5 of 6 standards (Is in the Healthy Fitness Zone on the FITNESSGRAM®.) to invoke the two-year exemption. Permit the student to take just one semester of physical education in two of the following grades: 10, 11, or 12.
- If giving physical education credit, ensure 1) the teacher for Marching Band, JROTC, Cheer/Drill, etc. is credentialed to teach physical education, 2) the content for physical education is taught, and 3) the mandated instructional minutes are met. The curriculum should match that of the general physical education program.
- Explore team teaching possibilities (Physical Education and Music Teacher or JROTC Teacher, etc.). Remember there must be an average of 40 minutes a day just for physical education course content.
- Design a freshman physical education program to include all 8 components of physical education and then:
 - Permit students to transfer in one year of physical education from a community college.
 - Or, have one of your credentialed physical education teachers design and conduct an independent physical education course for no more than one year.
 - And, or accept an online physical education for credit when the course meets the California Codes and Regulations for physical education and is offered by an accredited high school.
- Accept transfer credit for courses other than physical education from community colleges.
- Allow students to fulfill other high school diploma and A through G requirements by taking online courses from a credited online high school.
- Request a physical education instructional minute waiver from the California Board of Education to enable students to take one semester of physical education during summer school, take Marching Band the first semester, and then physical education the second semester.