



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Policy Bulletin

TITLE: Size of Physical Education Classes in Secondary Schools

NUMBER: BUL-820.1

ISSUER: Merle Price, Deputy Superintendent
Instructional Services

DATE: March 22, 2004

POLICY: District Policy and State law concerning class size in physical education.

MAJOR CHANGES: This bulletin replaces Bulletin No. M-87 (Rev.), of same title, issued on November 26, 1997. The content has been revised to reflect updated information and organization.

GUIDELINES: The following guidelines apply:

ROUTING
All Employees
All Locations

I. BACKGROUND

A. State Recommendations

1. The 1973 Physical Education Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve recommends on page 56:

To achieve effective instruction in grades one through six, the class size should not exceed 30, and in grades seven through twelve the class size should not exceed 40. Classes of this size must be composed of pupils who are fairly comparable in ability and interest and are divided into small workable groups.

2. The 1986 California State Department of Education publication, Handbook for Physical Education, recommends the following on page 63:

The teacher-student ratio should be the same for physical education as for other subject areas.

In addition, on page 77 the publication recommends:

Whether a school is large or small, the size and type of teaching station for one class remains constant. Maximum enrollment for a class in grades seven through twelve should be 40 students.



3. The California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education, Section 10060(f) clearly indicates the following as a physical education instructional criterion:

In a statement from former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine Eastin, on November 9, 2000, she stated “Although class size in physical are largely determined through negotiations at the district level, it is the recommendation of the California State Board of Education, the California Department of Education, the National Association of State School Boards, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that class size in physical education be comparable to class sizes in other subject areas. Large class sizes in any subject inhibit learning and student progress toward grade level standards. Furthermore, large class sizes in a moving environment create supervision and student safety liability issues.”

B. Local Factors

1. As the school population becomes more diverse, there is an increasing need for improved teacher-pupil communication to promote effective individual instruction and to ensure the safety of every boy and girl in physical activity classes.
2. Ideally, the size of each physical education class is determined by the nature of the activity, available facilities, adequacy of teaching station, achievement and development levels of students, and individual student problems.

II. DISTRICT POLICY

Because of extreme overcrowding, the Los Angeles Unified School District is not always able at present to comply with the above-mentioned recommendations; however, to provide a sound instructional program, maximize student safety, and account for the factors of the nature of the activity, the availability and adequacy of facilities, and individual student differences, district schools should wherever possible limit the size of classes in physical education as follows:

<u>Class Activity</u>	<u>Maximum Class Size</u>
(1) Team sports, such as football soccer, and football	(1) 55 students



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Policy Bulletin

(2) *All others

(2) 45 students

Principals, assistant principals, and physical education department chairpersons should work together toward reaching these goals.

*Exceptions include, but are not limited to, such unique classes as Adapted Physical Education, Interscholastic Athletic Teams, and Drill Teams, which are governed by other guidelines.

AUTHORITY: This is a policy of the District and recommended State law.

RELATED RESOURCES: Physical Education Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, 1973.
The California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education, Section 10060(f).

ASSISTANCE: For assistance or further information please contact Jeanie Leighton, Director, Middle School Programs, at (213) 241-6040.