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New York State Physical Education Profile Talking Points

What Is The New York State Physical Education Profile?

The New York State Physical Education Profile is an optional assessment tool for school district physical education programs. The New York State Physical Education Profile (PE Profile) is not a test or grading system. The results from this tool are intended to:

- Provide evidence of individual student progress in meeting the physical education learning standards; and
- Provide evidence to improve the overall quality a district's physical education program.

Why Is The Profile Important?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Surgeon General have challenged school physical education programs to be an important part of the solution to the nation's epidemic of physical inactivity that has led to a startling rise in childhood and adult obesity, cardio respiratory risk, and type II diabetes. In response, the NYS learning standards for physical education place a responsibility on local physical education programs to prepare students for a physically active, healthy lifestyle.

It is important to understand that the learning standards do not call for "getting kids fit," but instead for helping students to acquire the knowledge and skills to become competent or proficient in physical activities, understand the elements of designing a safe personal fitness program, and evaluate the physical activity resources available in their communities. In simple terms, physical education cannot simply be an exercise period. Physical education remains the last best place to provide all children with active experiences and meaningful instruction in the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully sustain a healthy lifestyle, for a lifetime. To this end, the PE Profile aims to help schools and districts to evaluate their physical education programs and student progress in meeting the learning standards.

Additionally, the PE Profile provides an opportunity for students to show their understanding of responsible behavior that is specifically grounded in the concepts "character, civility, and citizenship" as recommended by New York's Project SAVE legislation (2000) and the Educational Framework for Interscholastic Athletic Programs (2001).

What Are The Next Steps?

Each BOCES and Big 5 large city school district, through the Staff and Curriculum Development Network, will coordinate professional development opportunities to introduce the PE Profile to local school districts and buildings. Only participation in and successful completion of this program secures copies of the PE Profile for district use, so districts are strongly encouraged to register a team of middle and high school physical education teachers, instructional coordinators, and administrators to participate in an offered regional event. In addition, NYSED has developed a PE Profile Toolkit to aid in the facilitation of regional professional development events, and a PE Profile Website to disseminate Profile updates as they become available.

Contact Information:

For further information on the Physical Education Profile visit the NYSED webpage at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/pe/profile.htm>. This site will be continually updated with new information and materials on the PE Profile as they become available.

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