

**DESE RULES GOVERNING NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STANDARDS
AND BODY MASS INDEX FOR AGE ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS IN ARKANSAS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comments and Responses of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commenter Name:

April Babberl, Arkansas School for the Blind and Visual Impaired (6/16/2022)

Comment:

Good morning, I was a substitute teacher for many years and in the upper grades in PE the students were sitting around on their phones the whole class time. The coaches are not making them exercise. There are several reasons. First it is a losing battle to get students to dress out during a school day. Forget showers! Second unless they are in band or a sport they don't sweat. I would suggest that any student not in a sport take a gym class at the end of the school day so they can go home sweaty. It would be worth hiring an aerobics instructor or karate sensei to come in and teach one class with a school employ perhaps or something like that.

Division Response:

Hiring an aerobics instructor, karate sensei, or something similar is allowable and within Arkansas law and ADE rules but are at the autonomy of the school district to implement. Comments Considered. **No changes made.**

Commenter Name:

Becky Dean, Mountainburg Public Schools (6/20/2022)

Comment:

6.06.3 Compile the results of the School Health Index and develop goals and objectives that are included in the Health & Wellness School Improvement Plan for the 2022-2023 school year, the following priority areas shall be included in the public school and open-enrollment public charter school's health and wellness plan

6.06.3.1 Physical and Built Environment

6.06.3.2 Nutrition Standards

6.06.3.3 Physical Education and Activity Standards

6.06.3.4 Breastfeeding Education and Practices

May I ask WHY Breastfeeding Education and Practices are to be taught? When and if a student has a baby, a nurse and lactation consultant will be at the hospital to teach the young mother the importance of and how to breastfeed. If this is instituted, I believe there should be very concise

and specific rules as to who, when, and how this should be taught. I really do not understand why this falls under a school's umbrella of education.

Division Response:

Act 1074 of 2021 requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with Arkansas Department of Health to develop guidance for public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools to address and require certain priorities, including breastfeeding practices, to be included in the public school's health and wellness priorities. Comments Considered. **No changes made.**

Commenter Name: Lucas Harder, Arkansas School Boards Association (6/23/2022)

Comment:

6.06.2: "Division of Elementary and Secondary Education" could be abbreviated to "DESE" here.

Division Response: Comments considered. **Non-substantive change made.**
