



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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June 12, 2017

Certified mail return receipt requested

Rules and Waivers Unit S-493
ATTN: Winnie Tuthill
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

Dear Ms. Tuthill:

Enclosed is the application for the Waiver related 015 ILCS 5/27-6 Courses in Physical Education Required: Special Activities. Also enclosed is all required supporting documentation and a summary of the public attendance and testimony at the special Board of Education meeting held on June 23, 2017.

Pupils enrolled in public schools and State universities engaged in preparing teachers shall be required to engage daily during the school day, except on block scheduled days for the public schools engaged in block scheduling, in courses of physical education for such periods as are compatible with the optimum growth and developmental needs of individuals at the various age levels except when appropriate excuses are submitted to the school by a pupil's parent or guardian or by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 except as provided in section b of 105 ICS 5/27-6.

Oak Park Elementary School District #97 is requesting a waiver of the daily physical education requirement for students at the kindergarten through fifth grade levels. The district has in the recent years seen a larger than expected increase in enrollment each year which has limited the availability of common areas for courses such as PE for all of our students if offered on a daily basis; we continue to look for innovative approaches to student scheduling. As such we are asking that physical education with a licensed physical education teacher be limited to 60 minutes per week. Beyond these P.E. classes, our schedule includes having all students in kindergarten through fifth grade participate in at least 15 minutes of physical activity education (PEA) with their homeroom teacher on days when students do not have a scheduled physical education class. PEA is in addition to the daily lunchtime recess, and will allow all students time for movement and opportunities for large and small group activities. On top of daily recess and PEA, every effort will be made by regular education staff to provide structured classroom activities that require movement and fitness for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Please note that the middle school schedules for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade will continue to include daily physical education classes with a licensed P.E. teacher.

District 97 takes physical health seriously. The district provides nutritious meals through the National School Lunch Program and also has an active Wellness Committee. This committee promotes student wellness by fulfilling the district's wellness mission statement which is to support healthy lifestyle choices and academic achievement through promotion of greater health awareness to the community through education activities and services.

Should you require additional information, please contact me at 708-524-3004.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Carol L. Kelley
Superintendent of Schools