

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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K12: 2007- 03

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: January 8, 2007

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON NEW PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

As a result of legislative action through House Bill 7078 in 2006, a one credit Physical Education with the integration of Health course is required for all of Florida students entering high school as of school year 2007/08 for students earning a standard Florida diploma. (statute link: [1003.428](#) (2)(a)6.) Students enrolled in high school as of the 2006-07 school year will continue under the current graduation requirements (½ credit in Personal Fitness, ½ credit in Physical Education, and ½ credit in Life Management Skills).

Background: The newly required course is entitled "Health Opportunities through Physical Education" or "HOPE." It was written by a statewide committee of 16 public school district health and physical education professionals as well as two health and physical education related associations. Half of the committee consisted of district level health and physical education curriculum coordinators and the other half were currently practicing public school health education and physical education teachers. The committee was organized by the Department of Education's CSHP Director, Health Education Coordinator and Physical Education Coordinator and was facilitated by a Health Professor from Florida A & M, and a Physical Education Professor from the University of West Florida. The course incorporates the key components of the currently required Life Management Skills Course and the Personal Fitness Course.

The following information will assist in the implementation of the HOPE course.

- 1) The course codes for the HOPE Course and its variations are as follows:

3026010 – HOPE Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE)
1506310 – HOPE – HOPE Health Education Variation
1506320 – HOPE – HOPE Physical Education Variation

The HOPE course and its variations are full one credit courses to be taken by the student throughout one school year.

- 2) As written, the course requires two certifications: Physical Education and Health Education. A teacher who holds a dual certification will qualify to teach this course in its entirety or the course must be “team taught” using a Physical Education certified teacher and a Health Education certified teacher. This will ensure that the most qualified teachers will be teaching those course components that best apply to their level of expertise.
- 3) It is recommended that districts use the Personal Fitness and Life Management Skills textbooks that will be approved and under contract with publishers by April 2007, until new instructional materials can be written and adopted. These materials will serve the instructional materials need temporarily in view of the fact that this course incorporates the key components of the Life Management Skills Course and the Personal Fitness Course.
- 4) No waivers can be applied to the HOPE course or its variations.
- 5) The physical education and health education variations have been submitted as a ***phase-in option*** for those districts and schools that currently may not have the capacity to deliver the core course as written. By close of school year 2009/10 (three years), the two variations will be completely phased out and all districts and schools will be required to deliver the core course.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lillian Finn at Lillian.Finn@fldoe.org or Antionette Meeks at Antionette.Meeks@fldoe.org or at (850)245-0480.

CPY:lf:am

cc: Assistant or Deputy Superintendents for Curriculum
District Curriculum Directors
District Health Education Coordinators
District Physical Education Coordinators
District Guidance Counselors
Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinators