



Important!

Advocacy help to avert proposed State Board of Education changes to school operating standards.

At a meeting on Friday September 19 at the Ohio Education Association offices in Columbus, OAHPERD leaders became aware of proposed changes by the State Board of Education (SBE) that could have a negative impact on Physical Education in our schools. The SBE is proposing changes to what is known as the "5 of 8 rule."

Here is the relevant portion of the current rule in question:

A minimum of five full-time equivalent educational service personnel shall be employed district-wide for each one thousand students in the regular student population as defined in section 3317.023 of the Revised Code. Educational service personnel shall be assigned to at least five of the eight following areas: counselor, library media specialist, school nurse, visiting teacher, social worker and elementary art, music and physical education. Educational service personnel assigned to elementary art, music and physical education shall hold the special teaching certificate or multi-age license in the subject to which they are assigned. School districts receiving the school nurse wellness coordinator factor and school district health professional factor funds pursuant to section 3306.06 of the Revised Code shall give preference to hiring licensed school nurses.

The current draft that came out of the committee in April deletes the above language in its entirety and replaces it with the following:

Educational service personnel are credentialed staff with the knowledge, skills and expertise to support the educational, instructional, health, mental health and college/career readiness needs of students

As you can see, the new language is vague and removes mention of our subject as well as other areas. This is unacceptable. Ultimately we would like to see all eight areas required, but in the short term, we can't have this rule go away. This State Board of Education is in its last two months of office prior to elections that will change the composition of the board, and thus our "ask" is for them not to act on this until the beginning of 2015 when a new board will take office.

Please contact your SBE representative (find this person at <http://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/State-Board-Members>) and make the request that the SBE suspend action on school operating standards changes until 2015.

Thank you,

OAHPERD Board of Directors

17 South High Street
Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215
614-221-1900
www.OAHAPERD.org