



To: Cheryl Hibbeln
From: Scott Giusti
Re: JROTC as a PE Credit
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Background:

PE Credit: JROTC, Marching Band, Cheer and Drill Teams

On February 10, 2009, the San Diego Unified Board of Education voted to grant PE/graduation credit for high school students taking and passing Marching Band and/or JROTC. Included in this BOE item was an email from Marcela Obregon Enriquez, an Administrator from the California Department of Education's Curriculum Leadership Office, to Superintendent Terry Grier stating that this action was permissible under Education Codes 35160 and 51225.3(b). Also included with this item was a letter from Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which stated, "...it is important to note that EC section 33352(b) requires the LEA to meet additional responsibilities should the LEA decide to award physical education credit for a particular course. These responsibilities include the provision of minimum instructional minutes, various reporting requirements, and the assignment of an appropriately credentialed teacher."

Based on an audit conducted by the state during the 2014-15 school year, Michael Lee, CDE Representative conducting FPM audit for PE, reported that San Diego Unified School District can no longer offer PE credit for JROTC effective the 2016-17 school year and beyond without making sure the requirements below are met.

The State of California allows for physical education credit to be issued in certain classes outside of physical education. JROTC is one of those classes that has been approved by the state, however there are certain criteria that need to be met:

- Physical education has a minute mandate. For high school it is 400 minutes every 10 school days.
- Physical education has a credential requirement: teachers must hold the appropriate credential in order to issue PE credit.
 - If a teacher does not hold the appropriate credential, then less than half of the minutes can count toward physical education. (Teacher must teach the majority of the time in the area that they hold the credential).

Students who attend traditional schools:

- A student who attends a high school with 6 periods can receive physical education credit for JROTC if the teacher holds the appropriate physical education credential.
 - **The minute and credential requirement is met (55 minutes x 10 school days = 550 minutes).**
- A student who attends a high school with 6 periods cannot receive physical education credit for JROTC if the teacher "does not" hold the proper physical education credential.
 - **The minute and credential requirement are not met thus only 49% of the minutes count towards PE credit. (55 minutes/less than half (49%) = 269 minutes).**

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Students who attend 4x4 schools and their bell schedules meet the 400 state minute requirement:

A student who attends a high school that is on a 90 minute 4x4 schedule can receive physical education credit in two ways.

- JROTC teacher holds the appropriate physical education credential.
 - **The minute and credential requirement is met. (90 minutes x 10 school days = 900 minutes)**
- JROTC teacher “does not” hold the credential.
 - **The minute and credential requirement are met based on the fact that gathering 49% of the minutes on this schedule is over the state mandate of 400. (90 minutes/less than half (49%) = 441 minutes)**

What have we as a district done to support our teachers during this time of transition as they get the appropriate physical education credential:

- The Office of Secondary Schools paid for CSET test books for any teacher who requested a book.
- The district paid for any teacher who wanted to take the Physical Education CSET (in some cases, multiple times).
- The Office of PE, Health and Athletics created a CSET test prep class led by a PE resource teacher.
- A temporary solution to minutes was created to capture the minutes that could not be met by the 6 period schools, however it was shared with all sites that this could not be the long term solution based on site compliance issues.

Final thoughts:

- As a district, we are obligated to stay in compliance with the state.
- Class schedules and student enrollment were adjusted for 2015-16 to meet these guidelines.
- The state auditors will be retuning next year.
- Colonel Guzman of the JROTC program is working with district and state personnel to see if there are any other options available to provide PE credit through their respective programs as an alternative means to earning this high school graduation requirement.