
Education Committee

HJM 4002

Brief Description: Requesting reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act to include health and fitness.

Sponsors: Representatives Sullivan, Simpson and Kenney.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requests that reauthorization of the federal No Child Left Behind Act include health and fitness, including physical education, as a core academic subject to be taught by highly qualified teachers.

Hearing Date: 2/2/10

Staff: Cece Clynych (786-7195).

Background:

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires all teachers of core academic subjects to meet a federal definition of "highly-qualified" to teach in that subject. The core academic subjects are language arts, reading, English, science, mathematics, history, government, geography, economics, arts, civics, and designated world languages. The definition of highly qualified requires at least a bachelor's degree, full state teacher certification, and demonstrated subject area and teaching competencies. The competencies can be met in a number of ways.

Schools that receive Title I funds must notify parents if a student has been taught for more than a month by a teacher who is not considered highly qualified. States are required to report annually on the number of teachers in the state not considered highly qualified.

In Washington, physical education requirements are set by rule by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). In grades one through eight, students must receive an average of 100 instructional minutes of physical education (PE) per week. The rules specify that a one credit course or its equivalent shall be offered in PE for each grade in the high school program.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Two of the 19 credits for graduation must be health and fitness credits that align with current essential academic learning requirements at grade 10 or above.

The assessment of achieved competence is to be determined by the local district. State law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in health and fitness by 2008-09. The OSPI has developed classroom based assessment models for districts to use.

Summary of Bill:

It is requested that in the reauthorization of the NCLB, health and fitness, including PE, be identified as a core academic subject area to be taught by highly qualified teachers.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.