

Westerville City Schools

Physical Education Waiver FAQ

When will the WCS PE Waiver Take Effect?

The first season a student will be eligible to participate in the waiver will be the Fall Season 2015.

What constitutes a season in Westerville Schools?

A season will be defined in terms of Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. If a student, for example, mainly participates with the soccer program, but kicks for the football team on Friday nights, that participation for the purposes of the PE Waiver would be one (1) season – Fall.

What constitutes a “full season” for Westerville Schools?

A full season is determined to be from the first regular season contest through the last contest. A student-athlete must complete the full season in “good standing” for the season to be counted toward the PE Waiver.

If a student participates in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading or program before his or her district adopts the waiver policy, can those activities be applied?

No. Districts are not permitted to implement a retroactive policy. The two full seasons and the additional one-half unit of credit (60 hours of instruction) must begin after the implementation date of the policy. The first applicable season for Westerville City Schools will be Fall season 2015.

May other activities (show choirs, non-school-sponsored athletics, etc.) which involve physical activity on the part of students be counted toward the two semesters of Physical Education?

No. The statute specifically limits the participation to interscholastic athletics, marching band, and cheerleading. There is no authority granted to a board of education to include any additional participation. However, a student could utilize components of non-qualifying activities in a Credit Flex plan for PE credit attainment.

What is the impact of being “cut” or quitting?

The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” The season during which a student was “cut” or quit the activity could not be used to meet the two-season requirement.

What is the impact of a Code of Conduct violation?

A season in which a Code of Conduct violation results in the loss of participation may be forfeited for use for the PE Waiver as determined by the Principal and Athletic Director.

What is the impact if a student is injured during the season?

Injury will not prevent the completion of one season if the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach determine that the student actively participated with the team during the injury and took part in any physical rehabilitation required to treat the injury.

Can an academically ineligible student athlete count the ineligible season for the PE Waiver?

An academically ineligible student may have the season count for the PE Waiver as determined by the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach if the student was eligible for at least part of the athletic season and fully participated in practices during the period of ineligibility throughout the entirety of the season.

Can team managers or statisticians participate in the PE Waiver?

No. Student team managers, statisticians, helpers, etc. are not eligible for the Waiver. Only students physically participating in the activity are eligible.

If a student participates in only one full season of an approved activity, can the student be excused from .25 units of Physical Education and thus have to take only .25 units of Physical Education to complete his or her Physical Education requirement under the Ohio Core?

No. The statute requires participation for at least two full seasons. There is no provision in the law that would permit any type of partial excuse.

Are there any other requirements students must meet beyond the two full seasons of participation in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading?

Yes. Excused students also must complete one-half unit in another curricular area. While one-half unit of Physical Education requires a minimum of 120 hours of instruction, one-half unit in all other curricular areas requires a minimum of 60 hours of instruction. This one-half unit in another curricular area keeps the minimum number of credits required for graduation at 20.

When must a student complete the requirement for the PE Waiver?

A student must complete or be engaged in completing the second season by the end of the first semester of the student's senior year. A senior needing a Spring activity in order to complete the PE

Waiver requirements would not be eligible and will be scheduled into the required PE courses needed for graduation in the second semester of his or her senior year.

If a student takes advantage of the PE waiver offered by his or her district, does the waiver transfer with the student if he or she moves to a district without PE waivers?

Students are subject to the graduation requirements of the district where they will graduate. In the case of a transfer student, the receiving district is not obligated to honor the PE waiver earned in the prior district. The district should count any non-PE credit the student earned as a condition for receiving the PE waiver while in the prior district, but the student will still need to earn the required PE credit as required by the new district. Districts may decide how non-PE credits apply to their graduation requirements.

Are there multiple options for completing the PE graduation requirements?

Yes. A student may complete the PE graduation requirement by taking the two required classes either during the regular school year and/or during summer school, by utilizing the options afforded by the PE Waiver, or completing an approved Credit Flex academic plan for PE.

List of Qualifying Activities (Boys & Girls):

Baseball

Basketball

Bowling

Cross Country

Football

Golf

Gymnastics

Lacrosse

Soccer

Softball

Swimming/Diving

Tennis

Track & Field

Volleyball

Wrestling

Cheerleading (Fall & Winter)

Marching Band (Fall)