

**Policy Statement # 3440 (Students) of the Board of Education
Regarding Fitness and Athletic Equity for Students with Disabilities**

- I. Purpose
 - A. To ensure that students with disabilities receive appropriate physical education and have equitable opportunities to participate in athletic programs
- II. Definitions
 - A. Athletic programs – An activity involving physical exertion, stamina, and skill that is governed by a set of rules and is often undertaken competitively
 - B. Physical Education – A curricular program that provides students with opportunities to learn motor skills, develop fitness, and gain understanding about the importance of physical activity
- III. Policy Statement
 - A. Consistent with State law, the Board is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in mainstream physical education programs; and try out for and, if selected, participate in mainstream athletic programs.
 - B. Exceptions to the provisions of section III.A., above, may be made when the inclusion of a student presents an objective safety risk to the student or to others, based on an individualized assessment of the student; or fundamentally alters the nature of the school’s mainstream physical education or mainstream athletic program.
 - C. Participation in physical activity improves academic success, builds self-esteem, and prevents health problems. Therefore, the Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students have access to physical education and extracurricular athletic programs. It recognizes that students with disabilities may require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in these mainstream programs. To that end, the Board of Education will ensure that adapted, allied, corollary, unified, or alternative physical education and athletic programs are available, if required for the individual student.
- IV. Delegation of Authority
 - A. The Superintendent has the responsibility for developing administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and state and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.
- V. Exceptions
 - A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent

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state and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.

VI. Review

- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of four years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.

VII. Effective Date

- A. This policy is effective April 10, 2025.

Citations

State Law: Title 7, Subtitle 4B (Sections 7-4B-01 through 7-4B-06) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.:

Federal Law:

Adm. Reg.:

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation:

Related Policies:

Policy #3450 – Athletics Handbook

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