

Talking Points

: Marching Band Should Not Substitute for the High School Physical Education Credit

1. We have an obesity epidemic in South Carolina. Almost 33% of SC children, ages 10-1 (The State of Obesity, 2016). The financial impact of obesity in SC is 8.5 million per year and growing (SC Obesity Action Plan, 2014 -2019).
2. Physical education is one important part of the solution.
 - a. Physical Education is a strong predictor of lifelong health, wellness, fitness, as well as increased academic achievement (State of the Nation, 2016)
3. PE is an instructional program, taught by a certified physical educator, with standards designed to give students the skills, knowledge and dispositions to lead an active lifestyle, addressing all domains of learning.
 - a. Marching band, as a form of physical activity, only develops one aspect of fitness, only partially meeting standard 3 and nothing else. (The physically literate individual achieves and maintains a health -enhancing level of physical activity and fitness)
 - b. Marching band does not address standard 1 (Indicators: HS -1.1 Demonstrate competency and/or refines activity - specific movement skills in two or more of the following movement forms: aquatics, dance, outdoor pursuits, individual, dual and team sports taught as lifetime activities. HS 1.2 Demonstrate competency in one or more specialized skills in health - related fitness activities (for example, yoga, strength training, or aerobic dance) I. Marching/Walking does not meet any of the criteria for acceptable movement forms in performance indicator HS - 1.1 .
 - c. The Students Health and Fitness Act of 2005 clearly distinguishes physical education from physical activity. We have no objection to the use of marching band as an acceptable physical activity. Physical activity and physical education are not the same thing!
4. Band directors propose: The band director would provide “other” instruction required to meet other standards.
 - i. It is impossible to meet Visual and Performing Arts Standards, Physical Education Standards and often Health Education Standards in one class period for one semester – not enough time to meet all.
 - ii. The band director does not have the training or expertise to teach to the physical education standards nor the health education standards (which many physical education teachers have to teach).
 - iii. There is no accountability system in place to ensure all standards would be addressed in marching band.
5. Supporters of amendment argue: If online physical education is accepted, then marching band should also be accepted as equivalent substitution for the credit.

- a. Virtual physical education is by no means an ideal means of meeting the HS physical education requirement; different argument.
 - b. Virtual physical education, if taught according to syllabus supposed to meet all standards addressing and assessing skill and performance, although minimally by providing instruction, assignments and assessments to address the knowledge component of skills, sports and fitness.
 - c. Instruction is provided by a certified physical education specialist
 - d. Since SC Department of Education accepts online physical education to meet the HS requirement, it provides a viable option for students who want to take marching band during the one semester they have to take physical education.
 - e. Marching band is ONLY in the fall during football season, students can take their physical education credit during the spring semester.
 - f. Physical education is only ONE credit in high school and should not be replaced by any other subject
6. Students, who are what this should be about, would be the ones who are short changed. Lawmakers are being deceived to believe marching band can be the equivalent of physical education.