

**ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT WAIVER
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN DISTRICT-SPONSORED
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, MARCHING BAND OR CHEERLEADING**

Students who participate in two seasons of district-sponsored high school interscholastic athletics, marching band, Sing & Swing, or cheerleading shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. For the purpose of this policy, the definition of marching band includes Sweet 16. For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a season for Sing & Swing is one year. (An athletic season is defined by the rules and bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association). Partial credit will not be granted.

In order to be eligible to graduate, a high school student who is excused from the physical education requirement must still complete instruction in 6.5 electives.

Participating in interscholastic athletics, marching band, Sing & Swing, and cheerleading is a privilege, and not a right. This policy shall not in any way be construed as granting a student the right to participate in such district-sponsored activities. Board rules and policies including Code of Conduct continue to apply. In addition, any student participating in this policy shall be subject to any athletic fee and or pay-to-participate fee.

Granting of this waiver becomes effective upon completion of the specified athletic seasons as approved by the band director, choir director, athletic or cheerleading coach/advisor and submission to the Guidance Office.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

FALL

Football
Girls Volleyball
Boys Cross Country
Girls Cross Country
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Girls Tennis
Cheerleading
Marching Band
Boys Golf
Girls Golf

WINTER

Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball
Wrestling
Cheerleading
Boys Swimming/Diving
Girls Swimming/Diving
Gymnastics
Competition Cheerleading
Bowling

SPRING

Baseball
Sing & Swing
Softball
Boys Track
Girls Track
Boys Tennis

Frequently Asked Questions about the Physical Education Graduation Requirements

Listed below are some of the most frequently asked questions about the Ohio Core Physical Education Graduation Requirements, as required by [Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code](#) (ORC). Other questions may be added in the future.

Can a student, after earning one-quarter credit in Physical Education, opt out of taking a second Physical Education course by fulfilling the waiver requirements?

Yes. The student must fulfill all requirements for two full seasons of sports, cheerleading, or marching band. The first one-quarter credit Physical Education course could be used towards the elective credit requirement for graduation.

Can boards of education adopt policies to exempt students from Physical Education?

The board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the high school physical education requirement each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for at least two full seasons. If the board or authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the student to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study.

If a student participates in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading 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.

How much Physical Education is required?

Students are required to complete one-half unit of Physical Education for graduation. Both elective and traditional Physical Education courses require a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction to earn one-half unit of credit.

For Physical Education, may other activities such as non-school-sponsored athletics 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.

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.

For Physical Education, 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.

Can a district policy require more than the two seasons of participation in order to excuse the one-half unit of Physical Education required for graduation?

Yes. The language “for at least two full seasons” sets a minimum requirement. A board of education could require more than two full seasons. However, to meet the excuse from Physical Education, a board cannot require a student to complete an additional physical education course or require more than one-half unit in another course of study.

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.

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.

Can a local board of education add more requirements to its physical education waiver policy?

Yes. The state establishes minimum curriculum requirements for graduation, but local boards of education may adopt additional requirements. Examples for the physical education waiver may include taking coursework from a specified list of courses or having a minimum grade point average to qualify. Regardless of the additional requirements a local board of education may impose, students must earn at least one-half credit (60 contact hours) in lieu of earning credit for physical education coursework under the policy.

ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS
Agreement to Waive Physical Education Requirement for Interscholastic Sports

I, _____, understand that by signing this document, my physical education requirement at Ashland High School will be waived, contingent upon my successful completion of two seasons of interscholastic sports, cheerleading, marching band, Sing & Swing or a combination of one season of a sport or accepted activity. The seasons may be for the same sport or for different sports or accepted activities.

If I quit a team at any point during the season, become ineligible, or am injured (I cannot miss more than 60% of all practices and games), this agreement will be voided and I will have to take physical education classes scheduled at the high school. There will be no consideration of exemptions for medical excuses.

I also understand that because I will not be earning the ½ credit of physical education under this option, I must now select and enroll in ½ credit of some other curricular study to ensure that I have the correct amount of credits for graduation.

The interscholastic sports or cheerleading I intend to use for my physical education are:

Team Season Year

Team Season Year

Student Signature Date Year will graduate

Parent Signature Date