



Classification of Laws Associated with School Students

The Association of State Law and Physical Education Staffing and Curriculum Practices in US Public Schools

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About C.L.A.S.S.

Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (C.L.A.S.S.) is a scoring system that monitors and evaluates state-level school physical education (PE) and nutrition policies that have been codified into law. Policies are defined to include both statutory laws as enacted by the state legislatures and administrative laws promulgated by state administrative agencies.

Policy Areas Covered In C.L.A.S.S. Include:

Physical Education

- PE time requirements
- Staffing requirements (i.e., teacher qualifications)
- Curriculum standards
- Assessment of health-related fitness
- Recess time

Nutrition

- Competitive foods-*a la carte* (e.g., vending machines)
- Reimbursable school meals
- School meal environment (i.e., meal scheduling time and length requirements)
- Food service director qualifications
- Coordinating or advisory council requirements
- Nutrition education
- Marketing restrictions
- Body mass index screening

Introduction

The purpose of this research is two-fold:

- 1) Demonstrate compatibility of C.L.A.S.S. with other National databases to evaluate school physical education policies
- 2) Examine the association between state laws surrounding physical education staffing and curriculum standards with reported school practices at each school level: elementary, middle and high school

Methods

Data Sources (data linked by state):

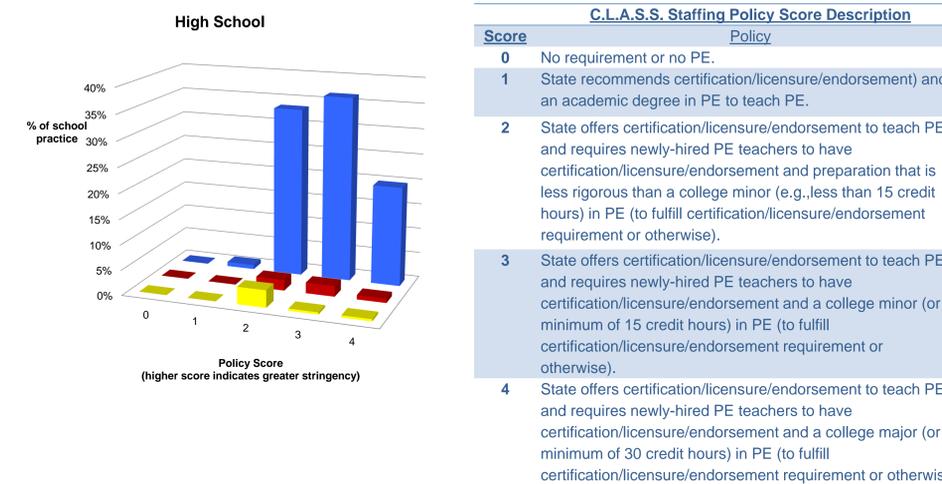
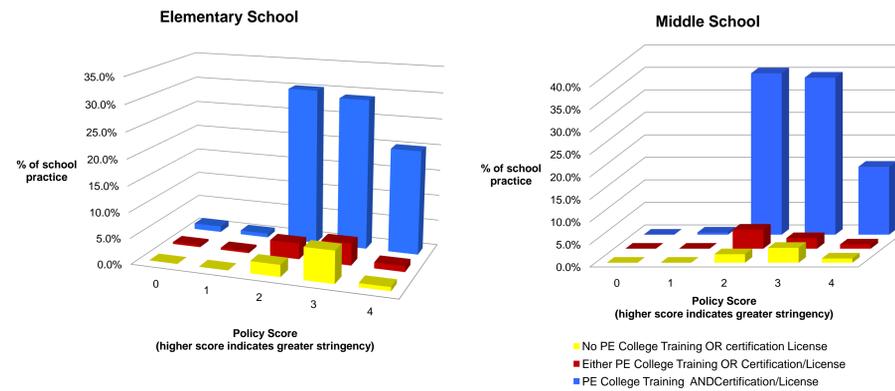
- State PE law data: 2005 C.L.A.S.S. data set
- School data: 2006 CDC School Health Policy and Programs Survey (SHPPS) data

- SHHPS data were coded and combined to develop a scale of 0-3 for PE staffing practices and 0-4 for PE curriculum standard practices at the school level.

Results

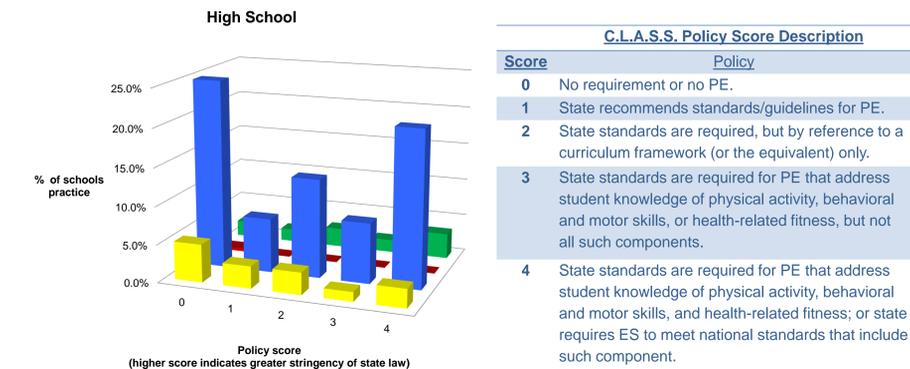
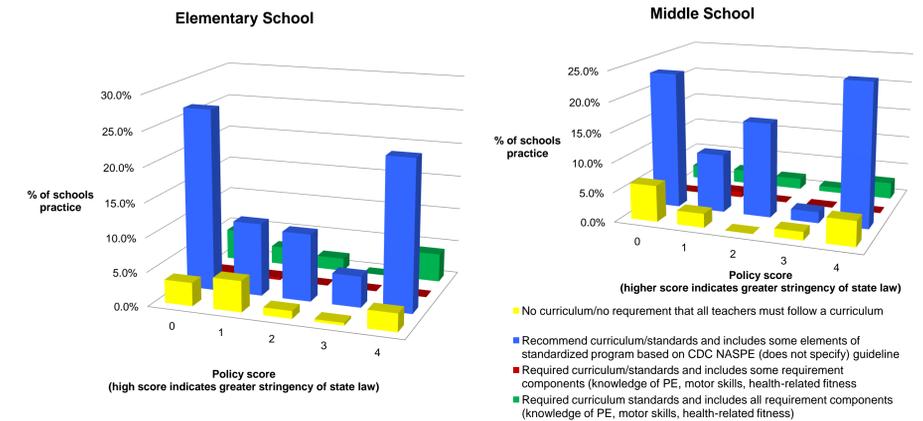
Staffing Policy and Practices

Staffing requirements for PE: Address certification requirements for newly hired teachers and education requirements for obtaining certification.



Curriculum Standards

Curriculum standards for PE: Covers elements of the PE curriculum that are taught to students.



Conclusion

A greater percent of schools required PE staff to have college training and certification/license to teach PE in parallel with state laws requiring at least certification/licensure/endorsement to teach PE.

No relationship was found between policy and school practice for PE curriculum, although most schools used a recommended curriculum standard, regardless of what their state law specified.

C.L.A.S.S. offers an important research and policy evaluation tool of physical education laws.