

PE Substitution Options for 2007-2008

Based on discussion regarding PE Substitution at the CIT Committee in December, I have gathered information to address the concerns of the Board as well as providing two options for the Board to consider for the 2007-2008 school year.

Concern: If PE Substitution were not an option for the 2007-2008 school year, how would this impact the students?

Dr. Sechriest asked each of the Principals to address this concern and posted their comments in an attachment with the PE Substitution topic on the December CIT agenda. A summary of the items that impact students are as follows:

- If a student fails a course, PE Substitution provides that valuable empty slot for that student to double up and recover that necessary credit.
- WCCC students at SAMHS, YHS and EMHS have a very difficult time fitting PE into their schedule at the home school because of the time they lose traveling. Many times, they have to leave their WCCC program and pick up PE at WAHS.
- Students would have to forego the opportunity to take additional courses / electives to make room in their schedules for PE.
- Without PE Substitution, students would still have an avenue to earn credit for their activities by signing up for Home schooling and the schools would be responsible for administering the appropriate paperwork to issue the credit for the student's athletic experience outside of the school day.

Concern: Is Policy 9535 being followed consistently?

Policy 9535 reads:

Students in grades 9-12 will be permitted to receive credit for physical education by successfully completing participation on a Warren County School District athletic team for one season (fall, winter or spring) or successfully completing a season of a Warren County School District marching band. Students in the Class of 1999 and thereafter will be eligible.

To be eligible for this substituting, the student must:

- a) Request this substitution in advance.
- b) Must schedule a credited course to replace scheduled physical education class.

Students may only substitute one physical education class per year. Successful students will receive a grade of "P" on their transcript for the physical education substitution and awarded credit as outlined in policy 9725 and Policy 9730.

I gathered some quick data for you to peruse regarding this concern. I pulled transcripts of 11th graders from all four of our high schools and looked at their 05-06 transcript

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entries. I looked at traditional / normal looking schedules of students attending high school and / or the WCCC. I focused on the number of credits that each student carried during their sophomore year and whether or not the particular student took traditional PE or opted to employ the use of PE Substitution. Keeping in mind that both the traditional PE and PE Substitution carry the same credit of .25, it was my goal was to see if either group carried a heavier credit load. I did not include students with failing grades, odd schedules, part time schedules, or anything out of the ordinary. I used a representative sample of 20 students from each school – 10 with PE Substitution and 10 with traditional PE.

School	Average Credit Load of Student with PE Substitution	Average Credit Load of Student with Traditional PE
WAHS	7.70	6.83
EMHS	7.35	6.78
SAMHS	7.45	6.95
YHS	7.55	7.05

On average, in all schools, students employing the PE Substitution carried more credits than those students taking traditional PE. When looking at the transcripts, the additional courses varied considerably from electives to AP courses. Some students are, in fact, taking a study hall, but in my discussions with Principals following the CIT meeting, this is most often a strategy for students to avoid missing an important academic course in the afternoon, typically 8th period, when a student athlete is often leaving early for an “Away” event.

Adherence to Policy 9535 will be discussed with secondary principals and guidance counselors. If the administration determines that the policy does not adequately meet the needs of the students then it is the responsibility of the administration to bring a recommendation to the Board of Education to address the needs.

Concern: How would the role of the teacher and the role of the coach differ and would certification be a factor?

In either option presented below for the 2007-2008 school year, the role of the coach would be to sign off that a program has been completed by an athlete. The role of the teacher would be to determine if the appropriate sign off has been made indicating completion of the program and issuing a mark. Coaches are not necessarily teachers and only certificated Health & PE teachers should issue a grade for PE Substitution.

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Concern: Time is a factor in decision making for the 2007-2008 school year, but the Board wishes to revisit this program for the possibility of greater changes for the 2008-2009 school year. When does a decision need to be made regarding the 2007-2008 PE Substitution? When will the CIT Committee begin to revisit the topic to be ready for the 2008-2009 school year?

Decisions for the 2007-2008 school year need to be made at the January Board meeting as the Course Description Booklet needs to be available to the schools no later than January 15th.

The CIT Committee has decided to revisit this issue in May to begin to make decision regarding the 2008-2009 school year and PE Substitution.

Concern: Can we implement PE Substitution for the 2007-2008 school year without an increase in PE staff?

Option A: Implementation of Community and the Field Draft IIA No increase in PE Staff

Current PE schedules at YHS, SAMHS, EMHS and WAHS contain some flexibility, and principals are currently utilizing PE Teachers for the following:

- Study hall
- Lunch duty
- General coverage
- SAP (Student Assistance Program)
- Class sizes less than 10

Coverage for Study hall, Lunch, lack of substitutes, IEP meetings, SAP, etc. will still need to be addressed by the Principal. Principals have shared that as staffing has become tighter this year, providing this coverage has become more difficult. This will have to be taken into consideration in overall “coverage” periods provided in staffing.

Proposed Implementation:

- New planned instruction for PE Substitution – students in grades 9-12 will be eligible
- WCSD athletics / activities will be eligible for PE Substitution
- Alignment of the WCSD athletics / activities to PA Academic Standards will be completed for teachers by Health / PE Curriculum Coordinator and Supervisor of Athletics / Co-Curricular to ensure the activity is a valid substitution
- Coach / Supervisor of activity will sign off on each athlete as complete / not complete

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- PE teacher will collect sign offs from coach / supervisor and issue grade based on completion / lack of completion

Issuing a grade based upon the completion of a form completed by a coach should not be incredibly time consuming considering the grade is issued once upon completion of the program.

Option B: Implementation of Community and the Field Draft IIB Increase of one PE Teacher

Employ one additional PE Teacher to handle responsibilities of accountability of paperwork and issuing grades for PE Substitution for all four high schools. This would be an approximate “caseload” of 850 students.

Proposed Implementation:

- New planned instruction for PE Substitution – students in grades 9-12 will be eligible
- WCSD athletics / activities AND community-based courses of study will be eligible for PE Substitution.
- Alignment of the WCSD athletics / activities to the PA Academic Standards will be completed for teachers by Health / PE Curriculum Coordinator and Supervisor of Athletics / Co-Curricular to ensure the activity is a valid substitution
- Approval of community-based courses of study and their alignment to the PA Academic Standards will be completed by the PE teacher to ensure the activity is a valid substitution.
- Coach / Supervisor of activity will sign off on each athlete as complete / not complete
- PE teacher will collect sign offs from coach / supervisor and issue grade based on completion / lack of completion