



**S.B. 81**

125th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Sens. Fedor, Fingerhut, Dann, Miller

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt academic standards and model curricula for physical education for grades K through 12, subject to approval by the General Assembly.
- Directs the State Board to designate a physical education curriculum director to oversee the development of the standards and model curricula.

---

**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Background**

In accordance with current law, the State Board of Education has adopted statewide academic standards for each of grades K through 12 in the core subjects of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. These standards describe the academic content and skills that students are expected to learn and display at each grade level. Within 18 months after completing standards for a core subject, the State Board must also adopt a model curriculum for that subject.<sup>1</sup> Current law further directs the State Board to adopt academic standards and model curricula in computer literacy for grades 3 through 12 and in both fine arts and foreign languages for grades K through 12.<sup>2</sup> School districts may use any of the model curricula as an instructional tool, but they are not required to do so.

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3301.079(A) and (B), not in the bill. The State Board adopted academic standards for reading, writing, and math on December 11, 2001. Standards for science and social studies were adopted December 10, 2002. Model curricula for these subjects have not yet been adopted by the State Board.

<sup>2</sup> Draft standards for these subjects have been completed and the Department of Education is currently collecting public feedback regarding their content.

Although not mandatory under current law, the State Board is permitted to adopt academic standards or a model curriculum for health or physical education. However, if the State Board intends to adopt health or physical education standards or model curricula (or revise existing ones), the standards or curricula must receive legislative approval through passage of a concurrent resolution. The law specifies that neither chamber of the General Assembly may vote on a concurrent resolution approving health or physical education standards or curricula until its education committee holds at least one public hearing on the matter.<sup>3</sup>

**Physical education standards and curricula**

(R.C. 3301.0718)

The bill adds physical education to the subject areas in which the development of academic standards and model curricula is mandatory. Specifically, the State Board must propose standards and model curricula for instruction in physical education for grades K through 12.<sup>4</sup> Physical education standards and curricula cannot be combined with those for health. The bill maintains the requirement in current law that the State Board cannot formally adopt or revise standards or model curricula for physical education unless the General Assembly approves them by concurrent resolution following at least one public hearing in each chamber. Finally, the bill requires the State Board to designate a physical education curriculum director to oversee the development of the standards and model curricula.

---

**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-01-03	p. 311

s0081-i-125.doc/kl

---

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3301.0718(A).

<sup>4</sup> *Current law, unaffected by the bill, prohibits the State Board from adopting a diagnostic assessment or achievement test for any subject other than reading, writing, math, science, and social studies (R.C. 3301.0718(B)). Therefore, no diagnostic assessment or achievement test could be developed based on physical education standards.*