Ensure Mandatory School Recess for Elementary School Children (K-5) Becomes Law

NJAHPERD will continue to advocate for a law requiring a minimum daily 20 minute recess period for elementary school students in NJ, either through legislation (A-2469 Peterson/DiMaio/Diegnan/Jasey S-1144 Turner) or regulation. NJAHPERD will also advocate that recess not replace the health and physical education course requirements specified by law in NJ schools.

Advocate for Health and Physical Education Teacher Certification

NJAHPERD will advocate for legislation that requires elementary school teachers in NJ (K-6) to possess the appropriate endorsement to their teaching certificate to teach health and physical education in New Jersey (A-2764 Diegnan). Existing teachers will be grandfathered.

This law will ensure that certified health and physical education teachers receive appropriate, comprehensive training and necessary pedagogical preparation, and will ensure that NJ students are receiving effective instruction by a specialist in required health and physical education courses.

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)

On the federal level, ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Health and physical education are included in the law’s definition of a well-rounded education, along with 17 other subjects. However, strong state and local support is needed to ensure that funding for school health and physical education is available under this new law.

Update New Jersey Drivers Education Testing Requirements

Many NJAHPERD members teach drivers education courses in their local schools. Driver education testing requirements have not been updated since 2011. NJAHPERD will work to ensure that the testing requirements are updated and adopted by the NJ Department of Education and Motor Vehicle Commission (“MVC”).