



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES  
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 23, 2019

**TO:** The Honorable Brandt Iden  
Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

**FROM:** Sheila A. Alles *Sheila*  
Interim State Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Opposition to HB 4282

The Department of Education is opposed to allowing Occupational Safety and Health Administration training to replace physical education or activity in fulfilling the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Physical education and physical activity are integral components of a student's education and lifelong health. Researchers have shown that students who participate in regular fitness-based physical education (PE) will enjoy enhanced memory and learning, better concentration, and increased problem-solving abilities. Movement is critical to all aspects of a child's growth and development. Regular PE encourages a positive attitude towards self and others, which is an important factor in creating a safe and healthy learning environment and supports Michigan's strategic plan to become a top ten education state in ten years. In recognition of the importance of PE and physical activity (PA) to a student's education, the Every Student Succeeds Act, which was passed in December 2015, has recognized physical education as part of a well-rounded education.

The Department of Education recognizes the value in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training for students participating in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. For this reason, the department's Office of CTE is designing a process to identify one or more industry credentials, safety credentials, and a soft skills credential for State Approved CTE programs. We anticipate the OSHA 10-hour course and the OSHA 30-hour course to be identified for several State Approved CTE Programs as outcome credentials.

The following chart outlines the distinctions between a physical education course and OSHA 30-hour training:

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Physical Education	OSHA 30
Research-based and rigorous; instructs in life-long fitness at the secondary level.	Designed to educate workers on workplace and jobsite safety.
<p>Employers will pay increased health care costs when their employees do not have the skills to attend to their physical and mental health.</p> <p>Statistics related to chronic disease, disability and death, health care costs, and quality of life issues clearly illustrate that there are severe problems associated with attending to the intellectual but not the physical being.</p>	<p>Many CTE programs do not incorporate OSHA training. Select CTE programs that do, most often use the 10-hour course as the 30-hour course is cost prohibitive at approximately \$179 per student.</p>
<p>In a Physical Education Class, students focus on standards such as (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate competency in specialized skills in health-related fitness activities.</li> <li>• Create a practice plan to improve performance for a selected skill.</li> <li>• Discuss the benefits of a physically active lifestyle as it relates to college or career productivity.</li> <li>• Design a fitness program, including all components of health-related fitness, for a college student, and an employee in the learner’s chosen field of work.</li> <li>• Recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.</li> </ul>	<p>OSHA 30-hour General Industry Training topics focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to OSHA</li> <li>• OSHA Inspection Procedures</li> <li>• Safety and health programs</li> <li>• Recordkeeping</li> <li>• Hazard Communication</li> <li>• Emergency Action Plans</li> <li>• Fire Detection and Protection</li> <li>• Electrical</li> <li>• Flammable and Combustible Liquids</li> <li>• Machine guarding</li> <li>• Walking and Working surfaces</li> <li>• Welding, Cutting, and Brazing</li> <li>• Material Handling</li> <li>• Personal Protective Equipment</li> <li>• Industrial Hygiene and Bloodborne Pathogens</li> </ul>

For the reasons listed above, the Department of Education is opposed to the option of substituting physical education and physical activity with OSHA training.