



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director

9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228

410-925-2183

pssamed@gmail.com

www.pssam.org

BILL: House Bill 393
TITLE: Elementary School Students – Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)
DATE: February 8, 2018
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 393 requires a public school student in elementary school to be provided a daily program of physical activity totaling 150 minutes each week to include physical education and developmentally appropriate, moderate-to-vigorous activity, including recess; requiring that the program of physical activity for a certain category of student be consistent with the student's Individualized Education Plan; requiring public elementary schools to designate a physical activity leadership team to plan and coordinate certain activities; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 393.

Local school systems understand the importance of and fully support physical activity for all students. Schools provide students with safe physical activity opportunities supervised by well-trained, competent and certified staff. However, to implement what is called for in this bill is not practical and would present local school systems with another unfunded mandate.

Extra physical education within the current instructional day would require reduced instruction in another subject unless the school day was lengthened at a considerable cost for the added instructional time. The physical education curriculum currently provides teachers with the resources to meet their students' needs. In addition, physical education teachers work closely with the adapted physical education instructional specialists to determine the curriculum appropriate for special needs students.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of this legislation. However, PSSAM will continue to advocate for local board of education governance of teaching and learning. We strongly believe that each local school system must have the flexibility to develop individual curriculum policies and practices that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM respectfully **opposes** HB 393 and urges an unfavorable committee report.