



Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

BILL: HB 989 – Public School Students – Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)
DATE: February 25, 2022
POSITION: **Unfavorable**
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

House Bill 989 requires that public school elementary students be provided programs of physical activity daily to total at least 150 minutes per week, including physical education and developmentally appropriate, moderate-to-vigorous activity, including recess and a minimum of 90 minutes each week of physical education. The program of physical activity for a certain category of student must also be consistent with the student’s Individualized Education Program.

The Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM), which represents all twenty-four local school superintendents, **opposes House Bill 989.**

Local school systems understand the importance of, and fully support physical activity for all students. Schools already provide students with safe physical activity opportunities supervised by well-trained, competent, and certified staff. However, to implement what is called for in this we would have to accommodate the additional physical education within the current instructional day, would require reduced instruction in another subjects. The physical education curriculum currently provides teachers with the resources to meet their students’ needs. Further, physical education teachers work closely with the adapted physical education instructional specialists to determine the curriculum appropriate for special needs students.

PSSAM thanks the sponsors for their interest and advocacy on this topic, but we firmly believe decisions regarding curriculum should be determined locally between superintendents and their boards of education.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, PSSAM respectfully opposes HB 989 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

One Voice, One Vision for Maryland’s Students