

SB 966

Senator Ralph Northam (R-Norfolk) introduced SB 966 during the 2011 General Assembly Session, which requires at least 150 minutes of physical education per week on average during the regular school year for grades K-8, effective 2014-2015. SB 966 passed the General Assembly, but was vetoed by Governor McDonnell due to cost implications. It is anticipated this legislation will be introduced again during the 2012 General Assembly Session.

Considerations:

1. Burden on elementary schools will occur in two ways (1) regular education teachers will have to teach additional minutes, which requires additional preparation along with SOL content preparation, and, (2) the additional minutes will be taken away from either a core SOL subject or from fine arts, music, art.
2. ACPS Middle schools currently have 450 minutes of physical education every two weeks, an average 225 minutes per week. If 150 of those minutes are required to be physical education, only 75 minutes remain devoted to health and family life curriculum. A change in middle school will also require reduction in teaching time.
3. ACPS High schools average more than 150 minutes per week at the 9th and 10th grade levels, if the mandate is passed for 11th and 12th grades, ACPS staffing would increase by approximately 8 FTE's.
4. Initiative supported by American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and others.

Action available:

Support SB 966

Oppose SB 966

No Position