

SOUTH CAROLINA

SC Code § 59-10-10 Standards established; status reports to parents; decrease
in student to physical education teacher ratio
SC Code § 59-10-40 Professional Development

Effective June 1, 2005

The scorecard was created as part of a policy toolkit that supports advancing recess in schools through state laws. It was developed by the research team, with input from the advisory board, to provide a starting point for advocates and policymakers seeking to improve recess legislation. A score of “0” indicates that the law requires further development. We recommend first incorporating all essential best practices, followed by any enhanced best practices that are appropriate for your state.

South Carolina has a physical activity law that may include recess to meet the minimum weekly amount required.

BEST PRACTICE	LANGUAGE IN LAW	SCORE
ESSENTIAL BEST PRACTICES		
A. Mandates a time requirement of at least 20 minutes of daily recess	<p>The goal of this article is to provide every elementary student with the equivalent of thirty minutes of physical activity daily. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade must be provided with <u>a minimum of one hundred fifty minutes a week of physical education and recess.</u></p> <p><i>Note: Physical activity law and not a recess-specific law. Weekly mandate not daily</i></p>	1
B. Inclusive of all students in grades kindergarten-8	<p>Students in <u>kindergarten through fifth grade</u> must be provided with a minimum of one hundred fifty minutes a week of physical education and physical activity.</p> <p><i>Note: The law does not include grades 6-8</i></p>	1
C. Prohibits schools from withholding recess	N/A	0
D. Prohibits schools from using recess to fulfil state mandated physical education requirements	<p>Students in kindergarten through fifth grade must be provided with a minimum of <u>one hundred fifty minutes a week of physical education and recess.</u></p> <p>In 2006-07, a minimum of sixty minutes a week must be provided in physical education, and as Section 59-10-20 [Student to certified physical education teacher ratios] is phased in, <u>the minimum time for physical education must be increased to ninety minutes a week.</u></p> <p><i>Note: 90 minutes must be PE, unclear if the other 60 minutes must be recess</i></p>	1
E. Includes specific language on compliance	N/A	0

BEST PRACTICE	LANGUAGE IN LAW	SCORE
ENHANCED BEST PRACTICES		
F. Transition time does not count toward minimum time	N/A	0
G. Requires recess be provided on shortened school days	N/A	0
H. Requires recess to be inclusive for all students	N/A	0
I. Requires recess to be held outdoors	N/A	0
J. If recess is indoors, the law requires there to be adequate space for students to be physically active	N/A	0
K. Prohibits the use of personal electronic devices during recess	N/A	0
L. Requires schools to provide annual professional development opportunities for staff members who lead or supervise recess	Appropriate professional development must be provided to teachers and volunteers on the importance of physical activity for young children and the relationship of activity and good nutrition to academic performance and healthy lifestyles.	2
M. Requires schools to schedule recess before lunch	N/A	0
N. Requires schools to provide age-appropriate equipment	N/A	0
O. Requires all recess equipment and facilities to meet or exceed safety standards	N/A	0