

## What Is C.L.A.S.S.?

Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (C.L.A.S.S.) is a scoring system that monitors and evaluates state-level school physical education (PE) and nutrition policies that have been codified into law. Policies are defined to include both statutory laws as enacted by the state legislatures and administrative laws promulgated by state administrative agencies.

- C.L.A.S.S. uses a scoring system to code state laws as they compare to national standards and recommendations for PE and nutrition
- C.L.A.S.S. scores of PE and nutrition laws are available at elementary, middle, and high school levels and across levels

### Policy Areas Covered In C.L.A.S.S. Include:

#### **Physical Education**

- PE time requirements
- Staffing requirements (i.e., teacher qualifications)
- Curriculum standards
- Assessment of health-related fitness
- Recess time

#### **Nutrition**

- Competitive foods-a la carte (e.g., vending machines)
- Reimbursable school meals
- School meal environment (i.e., meal scheduling time and length requirements)
- Food service director qualifications
- Coordinating or advisory council requirements
- Nutrition education
- Marketing restrictions
- Body mass index screening

## C.L.A.S.S. Policy Mapping Tool

**C.L.A.S.S.** users can generate policy maps for any PE or nutrition policy area selected. Users can also select a particular state to generate information on policy scores by year and by grade level. Data can be printed or downloaded for analysis.

#### View Data Map

Develop tailored national policy maps by selecting either physical education or nutrition and then selecting the grade level, policy area, and year of interest. Click the View Data Map button to generate your map. Maps can be downloaded and printed.

#### O Physical Education O Nutrition Grade Level Policy Area Year 2007 O All School Levels Time Requirements Elementary School Staffing Requirements Middle School O Curriculum Standards High School ○ Fitness Assessment ■ O Recess Time O Weighted Summary Score МТ SD WY UT со KS

#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health



# Classification of Laws Associated with School Students

## Who Goes To C.L.A.S.S.?

**C.L.A.S.S.** is a resource for researchers; state governments, school boards, and councils; district and local school boards; teachers; nutrition directors; parents; and others interested in preventing childhood obesity and improving the school nutrition and physical education/activity environment.

#### **RESEARCHERS** go to C.L.A.S.S. to:

download data to analyze school diet- and physical activity-related laws.

## Use the data to do the following:

- Examine laws within and across grade levels
- Link the data with other surveillance, health, and education datasets
- Track changes in laws over time
- Evaluate factors associated with implementation of laws

## **POLICY MAKERS** go to C.L.A.S.S. to:

monitor how state PE and nutrition policies compare to other states using the map and state report functions.

- Examine if states are meeting the most current standards and recommendations for PE and nutrition
- Evaluate how state laws compare to others

#### SCHOOL BOARDS, TEACHERS, AND THE PUBLIC go to C.L.A.S.S. to:

examine how local policies compare to state laws.

- Examine laws within and across grade levels
- Subscribe to C.L.A.S.S. listserv for updates

## Why Go To C.L.A.S.S.?

**Empirical:** C.L.A.S.S. employs an empirical coding system that can be used to assess changes in state laws over time and allows for easy linkages with other data sources.

**Independently Coded:** C.L.A.S.S. data are coded and rated according to national physical education and nutrition standards and recommendations by the MayaTech Corporation through a contract with the National Cancer Institute.

**Regularly Updated:** C.L.A.S.S. scores are annually coded from 2003-2008 and bi-annually thereafter to reflect the codified law of each state as of December 31 of the specified year.

## Don't Miss C.L.A.S.S.!

Log on to **class.cancer.gov** to use C.L.A.S.S. and subscribe to e-mail updates for the latest C.L.A.S.S. news.

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