



SUPPORT the Carol M. White Physical Education Program!

Since 2001, the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) is the **only federal program that supports physical education**, providing critical funding to initiate, expand and improve school physical education.

Last week, on March 4th, the Obama Administration released its 2015 budget request. As in past years, the budget consolidates three separate existing programs-- the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Activities, the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling, and **the Physical Education Program**-- into the "Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students Program (SSHS)." The proposal for the new consolidated program provides \$214 million for FY2015, which is \$66 million lower than FY 2014's budget request.

PEP Quick Facts:

- The Administration has proposed collapsing PEP into the "Successful, Safe and Healthy Students" (SSHS) initiative, which would force competition for limited dollars among school climate and counseling areas. The FY 2015 budget is \$66 million less than last year's request.
- Many in Congress have identified PEP for elimination in the budget and education bills
- Only 10% of those who apply are awarded grants because of the lack of funding.
- Average expenditure per school on PE programs is only **\$764** per year.
- PEP funded school-based fitness centers are often open to the community, demonstrating sustainability and greater return on investment.
- PEP is a relatively low-cost program with big rewards.
 - PEP accounts for approximately .002% of the federal education budget
 - An investment of \$1 into the health of our nation reaps over \$3.25 in return in the long run
 - Annual expenditures related to obesity are expected to top \$270 billion per year
- PEP establishes no new authority to the federal government in education.
 - PEP funds programs to help students meet physical education standards
 - PEP does not mandate physical education nor require establishment of physical education curriculum
- PEP adds no burden to states and offers real help in the tangible form of professional development, innovative programs and equipment.
 - Provides assistance to schools and districts that desire to increase physical education but can't afford it
 - No state or district is obligated to do anything
 - Under SSHS, states would have the added burden of applying for grants and administering them to schools, districts and community organizations

Please continue to fund PEP as a stand-alone program at its current funding level of \$74.5 million per year!