

NCPEID

Newsletter

Name Change

It is official! After discussion and voting, the new name for our organization is the National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID). Thanks to everyone who participated in the lively online discussion as well as voting for the name changes.

Revisions to NCPEID Web Site

Changes to the www.ncperid.org are coming soon. Please check the website in February for changes.

Membership Dues

Just a reminder that NCPEID Memberships dues are now \$50 per year. The extra \$10 in dues will include a subscription to *Palaestra*. You can pay your membership dues online through PayPal at the NCPEID website (www.ncperid.org)

Department of Education Announces Grants

Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities: Personnel Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services CFDA Number 84.325K

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=215613>

Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities: Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related services Leadership Personnel CFDA Number 84.325D

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=215654>

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2013 NCPEID Conference

The NCPEID Annual Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Herndon, VA, July 11-13. This year the entire conference will be held at the hotel rather than at the AAHPERD Headquarters. Information about the conference and call for abstracts and award nominees will be coming in the spring. As a reminder, the International Symposium on Adapted Physical Activity (ISAPA) will be in Istanbul, Turkey July 19-23, 2013. So, NCPEID will not conflict with our ISAPA.

Despite Obesity Concerns, Gym Classes Cut

by A Baker (Washington Post)

More than a half-century ago, President Dwight D. Eisenhower formed the President's Council on Youth Fitness, and today Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Michelle Obama are among those making childhood obesity a public cause. But even as virtually every state has undertaken significant school reforms, many American students are being granted little or no time in the gym.

In its biennial survey of high school students **across** the nation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in June that nearly half said they had no physical education classes in an average week. In New York City, that number was 20.5 percent, compared with 14.4 percent a decade earlier, according to the CDC. That echoed findings by New York City's comptroller, in October, of inadequate physical education at each of the elementary schools that auditors visited. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, found just 20 percent of elementary schools in San Francisco's system were meeting the state's requirements: 20 minutes per day.

At Anatola Elementary School in Van Nuys, Calif., not only are there no gym teachers, but there is also no gym. The principal, Miriam King, has relied on \$15-an-hour aides to oversee once-weekly exercise regimens for her 450 students at an outside playground. "Sometimes, when it is raining, we just cancel," Ms. King said.

Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, has proposed injecting language into the federal budget creating incentives for schools to report how much physical activity students are getting. He also asked the Government Accountability Office to look into the issue and, in February, it released a survey showing that while schools appeared more aware of the benefits of physical education, "they have reduced the amount of time spent" on such classes. Principals most frequently blame budget cuts, and in New York, they also cite pressures to devote resources to test preparation, and what one union leader called a lack of interest from the department headquarters. "There does not appear to be a promotion, or support, from the Department of Education for daily physical education in many of our high schools," said Jeff Engel, a vice principal at Long Island City High School, in Queens, who is a member of the executive board of the principals' union. He said that his own school provided daily physical education, but that many did not. "We have a huge obesity epidemic in the city, yet we see many of our high schools going to nondaily physical education."

Obama Special Education Chief Calls It Quits

By Michelle Diament (Disability Scoop)

August 10, 2012

The nation's top special education official is leaving the Obama administration for a job in the private sector. Alexa Posny, who has served as assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services since 2009, will step down from her post at the U.S. Department of Education effective Friday, August 17th, 2012. She's leaving to take a job as senior vice president of state and federal programs at Renaissance Learning, a Wisconsin company that sells technology products to schools.

In a statement to Disability Scoop, Posny noted the many hats she's worn in her role with the Obama administration overseeing everything from regulations affecting toddlers to transition programs and a multi-billion dollar budget. "I am honored to have been able to serve in this position and to serve this administration as we strive to improve results and outcomes for individuals with disabilities," Posny said.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan informed his staff of Posny's departure in a note this week, indicating that another Education Department veteran - Michael Yudin - will be taking over her responsibilities on an acting basis. Yudin, who is currently the deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, is not new to the disability community, according to Duncan, who called him a "knowledgeable and tireless advocate for students with special needs." Prior to joining the Education Department, Yudin worked as a U.S. Senate staffer where he was instrumental in the 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. His biography also indicates that he worked on disability issues as an attorney at the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor. Education Department officials were mum Thursday on when a permanent replacement for Posny may be expected.

Equal Opportunity in Sports to Students with Disabilities

Posted on January 25, 2013 by Arne Duncan

(From Homeroom – The official blog of the USDE)

Playing sports at any level—club, intramural, or interscholastic—can be a key part of the school experience and have an immense and lasting impact on a student’s life. Among its many benefits, participation in extracurricular athletic activities promotes socialization, the development of leadership skills, focus, and, of course, physical fitness. It’s no secret that sports helped to shape my life. From a very early age, playing basketball taught me valuable lessons about grit, discipline, and teamwork that are still with me to this day.

Students with disabilities are no different – like their peers without disabilities, these students benefit from participating in sports. But unfortunately, we know that students with disabilities are all too often denied the chance to participate and with it, the respect that comes with inclusion. This is simply wrong. While it’s the coach’s job to pick the best team, students with disabilities must be judged based on their individual abilities, and not excluded because of generalizations, assumptions, prejudices, or stereotypes. Knowledgeable adults create the possibilities of participation among children and youth both with and without disabilities.

Today, ED’s Office for Civil Rights has released guidance that clarifies existing legal obligations of schools to provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate alongside their peers in after-school athletics and clubs. We make clear that schools may not exclude students who have an intellectual, developmental, physical, or any other disability from trying out and playing on a team, if they are otherwise qualified. This guidance builds on a resource document the Department issued in 2011 that provides important information on improving opportunities for children and youth with disabilities to access PE and athletics.

Federal civil rights laws require schools to provide equal opportunities, not give anyone an unfair head start. So schools don’t have to change the essential rules of the game, and they don’t have to do anything that would provide a student with a disability an unfair competitive advantage. But they do need to make reasonable modifications (such as using a laser instead of a starter pistol to start a race so a deaf runner can compete) to ensure that students with disabilities get the very same opportunity to play as everyone else. The guidance issued today will help schools meet this obligation and will allow increasing numbers of kids with disabilities the chance to benefit from playing sports.

The official letter from the USDE can be downloaded at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201301-504.pdf>

Nike Asked To Make Special Needs Shoes

by Michelle Diament (Disability Scoop)

August 10, 2012

An open letter asking the CEO of Nike to create shoes that are better suited for people with disabilities is going viral. Matthew Walzer, a 16-year-old from Parkland, Fla. with cerebral palsy, took to the Internet earlier this week to ask Nike CEO Mark Parker to consider creating a line of shoes that are self-lacing. “Out of all the challenges I have overcome in my life, there is one that I am still trying to master, tying my shoes,” Walzer wrote. “Cerebral palsy stiffens the muscles in the body. As a result I have flexibility in only one of my hands which makes it impossible for me to tie my shoes.”

Walzer said that because of the support he needs, Nike athletic shoes are the only type of footwear he’s ever worn. Unfortunately, that means he’s unable to fully dress on his own. “My dream is to go to the college of my choice without having to worry about someone coming to tie my shoes every day,” Walzer wrote, adding that he’s not the only one facing this challenge. “I hope that... Nike will consider being the forerunner in producing athletic shoes that will make the difference in the quality of so many lives.”

APENS Update

The mission of APENS is to promote the fifteen Adapted Physical Education National Standards (APENS) and national certification exam. The goal of APENS is to ensure that there is a nationally Certified Adapted Physical Educator (CAPE) within every school district in the country who can make meaningful decisions for children with disabilities in physical education. Come join the ranks of professionals who are dedicated to improving the quality of Physical Education for children with disabilities!

APENS Update! Several national surveys (on going) and both research and practical presentations using APENS related data and content were delivered in 2012. If you are interested in presenting materials on APENS in your state, please do not hesitate to contact the APENS office if you would like boiler plate information or up to date CAPE data. For more information on how to become nationally certified visit our web site at www.APENS.org or contact: Timothy D. Davis, Ph.D., CAPE, APENS Chair APENS@cortland.edu, 607-753-4969

. Harkin Bill Outlines Critical Public Health and Prevention Initiatives

http://www.harkin.senate.gov/press/release.cfm?i=339333&utm_source=SNEB+Membership&utm_campaign=95c0e02a85-Weekly_Policy_Update1_21_13&utm_medium=email

January 22, 2013 - Legislation introduced today by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, outlines critical public health and prevention initiatives to fight chronic disease, encourage healthier schools, communities and workplaces, and improve physical activity opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America (HeLP America) Act includes wellness provisions in a broad range of areas, including expanded access to fresh fruits and vegetables for all low-income elementary schools, tax incentives for businesses that offer comprehensive workplace wellness programs to their employees, **improved physical activity and athletic opportunities for individuals with disabilities**, and greater oversight with regard to food and tobacco marketing.

“Improving public health starts with prevention. Taking steps to improve access to healthier options, exercise opportunities, food labeling, and tobacco cessation will not only help stave off chronic disease—it will also save consumers and taxpayers money in the long run,” Harkin said. “By making health and wellness a key priority in our schools, workplaces, and communities—and by educating people to make informed choices—the HeLP America Act can open the door for more Americans to live longer and more productive lives free from chronic disease.” Title I (Healthier Kids and Schools) includes the following provision: *Equal Physical Activity Opportunities for Students with Disabilities: Directs the Department of Education to provide oversight, guidance, and technical assistance to ensure that schools provide equal opportunities for students with disabilities for Physical Education (PE) and extracurricular athletics.*

Special Education Funding May Drop \$900 Million

The nation’s top education official is warning that special education programs across the country will face “devastating” budget cuts next year unless Congress acts. Federal education spending for students with disabilities could be reduced by \$900 million next year according to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. That could translate to layoffs for over 10,000 teachers, aides and other staff who support the nation’s 6.6 million students with special needs, he said. The cuts are expected to begin taking effect in January under a process known as sequestration which was triggered last year when Congress failed to reach a budget deal. Under the plan, education programs as well as most other federal initiatives will be subject to an across-the-board spending reduction of about 8 percent. Unless Congress acts, special education cuts would impact schools starting in the fall of 2013, Duncan said. “We all know that there are steps we can take so we don’t have to start down this path that puts so many critical services to students, families and communities at risk,” Duncan told senators. “As everyone knows, sequestration does not have to happen and should not happen.” If the budget cuts go through as planned, federal spending on special education would fall to 14.5 percent, the lowest rate seen since 2001, according to an estimate from the Council for Exceptional Children, a national group that lobbies on behalf of special educators.

NCPEID

Martin E. Block, Ph.D., CAPE
University of Virginia
Newsletter Editors

The Mission of the National Consortium for Physical Education and Individuals with Disabilities is to promote research, professional preparation, service delivery, and advocacy of Physical Education and Recreation for individuals with disabilities.