

Testimony to the DC State Board of Education On the Proposed Graduation Requirements

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My name is Kemry Glover and I attend Woodrow Wilson SHS. I am 17 years old and in the 11th grade. I work at the Young Women's Project and I am in training. I am testifying on the graduation requirements and will be talking about the 225 minutes of weekly physical activity.

I understand where you are coming from with the physical activity increase. DC youth are facing fitness and nutrition problems across the city, but I feel that you should not add physical activity to a graduation requirement because it would create many complications.

This requirement will put some young people at a disadvantage. Those who are athletic will find it easy to do and will have many opportunities through team sports at school and community centers. However, those who aren't athletic and have other responsibilities would have to give up something in order to keep up with the demands. It would put them in danger of not graduating. The physical activity requirement will affect my peers who are already struggling with passing their main courses and getting the 24 credits currently required. . This additional layer of required work will create obstacles for people who do not have the resources or additional time because of family or financial responsibilities. My concern is that there will be more people who don't graduate because of these minutes, especially since many people have trouble graduating because of their community service hours. You will need a lot more infrastructure for students to successfully complete this work. If you do make this a requirement you will need:

- Facilities that are easy to access that we can use to complete these minutes (some schools do not have gyms and equipment)
- Staff in each school who can record and verify the hours students complete
- Alternatives for those who can't do the physical activities because they have different abilities and situations
- A way to enforce this to make sure that this is being done correctly

There would be a significant amount of administrative work and information to keep up with for every child in each school. I see this at my school because there are already problems with teachers keeping up with students'

papers. Not only are you putting pressure on the students, but you are putting pressure on counselors and teachers to make sure this is being done. This will be a task for someone who would have the time and patience to keep track of this and make sure that everyone does this.

I believe that increasing P.E. is enough because we are already taking P.E for a year, and with the year that you are adding on, it will be enough to learn important fitness skills. I would like to thank you all for taking the time and listening to my perspective on this.