

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Roblan
Prepared By:	Kevin Christiansen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/6, 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Department of Education to seek public and private funding to implement programs that link physical activity and academic achievement and provide information to school districts about funds available for such programs. Allows department to accept funds for programs from any source and agree to conditions placed on funds not inconsistent with Act's purpose. Requires department report to Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly regarding program funds applied for and received and information provided to school districts.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Measuring success of programs
- Possibility for funding
- Possibility of pilot programs
- Studies linking exercise and education benefits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In the past 15 years, a number of studies have been conducted on the connection between children's exercise levels and mental and intellectual performance. The research generally supports the proposition that exercise improves cognition in school children. It has not been established that exercising causes improvements in concentration and learning. However, a strong association between aerobic fitness and performance on standardized testing, grades, and other measures of cognitive performance has been demonstrated, according to research conducted at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. A recent study from the Centers for Disease Control also showed that girls with the highest level of physical activity each week consistently scored higher on tests, with the greatest impact reflected in their math scores.