# Schools seek delay in Oregon's P.E. requirement

## Lack of facilities, teachers hamper districts' progress

By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

SALEM — With less than 10 percent of Oregon's K-8 schools providing the minimum number of weekly physical education minutes mandated by the Legislature nine years ago, districts want lawmakers to extend the fall 2017 compliance deadline.

Rather than inching towards meeting the requirement, the number of compliant schools has actually declined, according to public records reviewed by the Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group Capital

House Bill 3141, approved by state lawmakers in 2007, made Oregon the first state in the nation to require minimum physical education instructional minutes for elementary and middle school pupils, according to the American Heart Association.

The law calls for a minimum of 150 minutes of physical education instruction per week for grades K-5 and 225 minutes for grades 6-8. Schools are required to meet that standard by fall 2017.

Most schools are so far from fulfilling the requirement that their advocacy groups are now asking lawmakers to either push back the deadline or allow for a phase-in. They also want other tweaks to the law, such as prorating the standard



pristine gym in the newly finished Washington Elementary School in Pendleton. The new building provides the district with a facility making it easier to comply with the state's physical education mandate.

to account for professional development days and inclement weather, and to add more flexibility in how physical education may be defined.

"Everybody recognizes the pinch we find ourselves in," said Jim Green, deputy executive director of the Oregon School Boards Association. "There are not enough P.E. teachers. Some of the facilities are inadequate in order to be able to provide that level of instruction, and it is going to take a lot to ramp up to that.'

Out of 1,080 public schools with some or all grades in K-8, only 97 schools in 2014-15 provided the minimum number of weekly minutes outlined in HB 3141, according to the Oregon Department of Education's most recent count. That's a decline from the 102 schools in 2013-14 that

met the minimum.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, championed the law in 2007 as a way to address childhood obesity and boost pupils' academic skills. Along with the minimum instructional time, the bill offered schools special grants, known as PEEK-8, or Physical Education Expansion K-8, to help hire P.E. teachers or give existing teachers professional development in physical education. The grants provided about \$4 million to schools in the last four

"I started this some 10 years ago because physical education had disappeared from our schools," Courtney said. "I understand resources are an issue, and every school is different. I just hope that together we can find a

way to continue to move forward."

Courtney said he is unwilling to compromise on the required number of minutes but could consider a phased-in approach to meeting the

He and his staff met with lobbyists representing schools and health groups Aug. 11 to discuss concerns about the law.

Schools' concerns about the requirement center on three issues: The cost of hiring additional P.E. teachers and building new space and the limited amount of instructional time, Green said. Schools faced funding rollbacks during the Great Recession and subsequent funding increases have not been enough to keep up with expenses, Green said.

The Pendleton School District recently built two elementary schools that replaced schools that used the same space for the cafeteria and gymnasium.

School administrators had to use creative scheduling, including lunch periods staggered by grade level, to accommodate lunch and biweekly physical education classes. The new schools, Washington and Sherwood elementary schools, have separate gymnasiums and cafeterias, which will make it easier to schedule additional P.E. classes, said Ronda Smith, a Pendleton principal who used to work at Washington Elementary School.

they also struggle to find time for the requirement in Oregon's limited school year, one of the shortest in the

But school administrators said

If schools have to provide more physical education instruction, other

subjects lose time, they said. None of those other subjects have a mandatory minimum of instructional time.

'The larger issue is we have so many hours in the school year that we can use, and we keep having different sets of expectations put on us," said Pendleton schools Superintendent Andy Kovach. "You add up the hours they're expecting of us, and where do you cut it out?"

Christina Bodamer, an Oregonbased lobbyist with the American Heart Association, which pushed for the law in 2007, said she understands the schools' dilemma but thinks the mandate needs to be a priority.

"Knowing there has been 10 years to implement this, I think an important part of a phase-in is accountability, so we don't go another three to five years and have nothing else happen," Bodamer said. Several bodies of research

suggest that physical activity can hone academic skills such as concentration, and even enhance overall academic performance, according to a review of research in 2010 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That research has given momentum to the idea of requiring minimum instructional time in physical education, she said. Washington, D.C., has a policy similar to Oregon's, and Washington and California are considering following suit, Bodamer said.

Apart from state grants, several health organizations also have been dedicating grant money to help schools come up with creative solutions to meet the requirement,

## Pot plants at state fair a first for the U.S.

SALEM (AP) — Nine living marijuana plants will be displayed at the Oregon State Fair in a first of its kind event for the United States starting next Friday.

The exhibit of the non-flowering, immature plants brings pot cultivation more into the agricultural mainstream less than two years after Oregon voters legalized recreational marijuana. The Oregon Cannabis Business Council, which organized the exhibit, says it's the first time live cannabis will be shown at a state fair anywhere in the U.S.

The group last year had an informational booth about marijuana at the fair and there

were no complaints — a key factor in allowing them to go one step further and offer live plants for viewing this year, said Dan Cox, spokesman for the Oregon State Fair.

The specimens were selected by judges at a competition last weekend who chose three winners each in the sativa, indica and hybrid categories.

The entire exhibit will be housed in a translucent tent and extra security will be on hand to check identification so only people 21 and over can enter, Cox said.

None of the plants are allowed have buds, which are more potent than the leaves.

That's because the Oregon

Liquor Control Commission, which will regulate the recreational marijuana business, is still finalizing regulations for the nascent industry and it's currently illegal to transport a flowering plant, said Donald Morse, director of the Oregon Cannabis Business Council.

Those regulations and a licensing process for recreational producers are expected by 2017. The industry hopes to have plants with buds at the fair next summer, Morse said.

The event has raised some eyebrows, but Cox said the Oregon State Fair has always played a role in displaying the latest and sometimes controversial fads in agriculture and state culture. Nearly 20 years ago, he said, the fair had an exhibit on tattoo body art that caused a similar sensation.

"It is a showcase for traditional things. And yet it's always been a show place for the new, the different and the innovative," he said.



In this Aug. 13 photo, Ed Rosenthal, nicknamed the "Ganja Guru," judges marijuana plants at a competition designed to select nine specimens for display at the Oregon State Fair. The exhibit of live marijuana plants will run from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 and will be the first time real pot plants have been open for public viewing at the annual agricultural showcase.

### Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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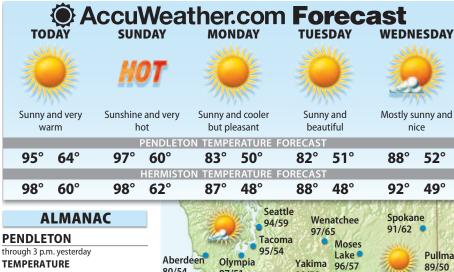
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#### HIGH LOW Yesterday **Normals** 109° (1897) 37° (1916) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m 0.07' Month to date Normal month to date 0.26 7.39' Year to date Last year to date 5.00' Normal year to date

#### **HERMISTON** through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW Yesterday 90°

Normals	87°	57°
Records	106° (1967)	42° (1973)
PRECIPIT/	ATION	
24 hours en	0.00"	
Month to da	0.05"	
Normal mo	0.12"	
Year to date	4.99"	
Last year to	3.25"	
Normal yea	6.07"	
<b>SUN AN</b>	D MOON	

#### Sunset tonight 9:18 p.m. Moonrise today 8:42 a.m. First Full Last Nev

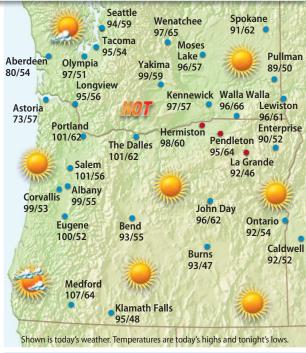
Sep 1

Aug 24

Sunrise today 6:02 a.m. 7:54 p.m.

Sep 9

Sep 16



REGIONAL FORECAST Coastal Oregon: Low clouds and fog, then Eastern Washington: Plenty of sunshine sunshine today; mostly sunny and cooler across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Hot today with plenty of sunshine. Mainly clear tonight. Very hot tomorrow Western Washington: Plenty of sunshine today; patchy fog at the coast during the

today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow. Cascades: Plenty of sunshine today: very warm. Mainly clear tonight. Sunny

Northern California: Clouds, then sun at the coast today; hot in central parts. Mostly sunny elsewhere.

## **REGIONAL CITIES**

NEG			-	Ш÷	•				
	T	oda	9	Sun.					
	<u>Hi</u>	Lo	W	Hi_	Lo	W			
Astoria Baker City	73 89	57 40	S S	69 93	56 46	pc s			
Bend	93	55	S	91	47	S			
Brookings	67	52	рс	66	50	рс			
Burns	93	47	S	94	48	S			
Enterprise	90	52	S	92	50	S			
Eugene	100	52	S	89	49	S			
Heppner	93	55	S	95	55	S			
Hermiston	98	60	S	98	62	S			
John Day	96	62	S	99	61	S			
Klamath Falls	95	48	S	92	48	S			
La Grande	92	46	S	96	53	S			
Meacham	89	47	S	91	50	S			
Medford	107	64	S	103	60	S			
Newport	62	51	S	60	49	рс			
North Bend	65	52	рс	64	52	рс			
Ontario	92	54	S	96	59	S			
Pasco	96	56	S	100	57	S			
Pendleton	95	64	S	97	60	S			
Portland	101	62	S	85	57	S			
Redmond	95	48	S	95	45	S			
Salem	101	56	S	89	54	S			
Spokane	91	62	S	91	58	S			
Ukiah	91	45	S	91	44	S			
Vancouver	100	61	S	84	55	S			
Walla Walla	96	66	S	97	64	S			
Yakima	99	59	S	98	55	S			

### **WORLD CITIES**

	Today	Sun.
	Hi Lo V	W Hi Lo W
Beijing	89 72 p	oc 93 74 s
Hong Kong	90 82 t	89 80 t
Jerusalem	88 70 s	88 70 s
London	70 58 c	73 61 c
Mexico City	73 56 t	73 55 t
Moscow	75 59 s	h 76 60 pc
Paris	76 57 p	oc 71 57 pc
Rome	84 67 s	83 66 s
Seoul	94 78 c	91 77 pc
Sydney	65 47 p	oc 68 49 s
Tokyo	84 78 t	88 80 t
	14/111	_

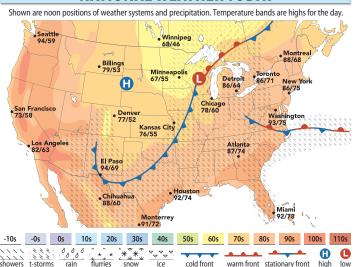
#### WINDS (in mph) Today Sunday **Boardman** SSW 3-6 Pendleton NNW 4-8



**0-2**, Low 3-5, Moderate 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num-

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



warm front stationary front National Summary: Showers and locally heavy storms will extend from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast today. Much cooler air will invade the Plains, while warmth and humidity build in the East and heat holds in the West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 108° in Imperial, Calif. Low 33° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES													
	Т	oday		Sun.				Today		Sun.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	83	61		84	60		Louisville	83	68	t	80	62	рс
Atlanta	87	74	t	87	69	t	Memphis	84	73		85		рс
Atlantic City	85	74	рс	84	70	рс	Miami	92	78	рс	92	76	t
Baltimore	90		рс	86		t	Milwaukee	80	61	t	75	58	
Billings	79	53	S	89	58		Minneapolis	67	55		71	59	S
Birmingham	85	74		84	69	t	Nashville	83	71		83	61	рс
Boise	92	63		95	63	S	New Orleans	91	78	t	90	77	рс
Boston	80	67	S	81	70	рс	New York City	86	75	рс	84	68	рс
Charleston, SC	93	78	t	96	76	t	Oklahoma City	82	60	рс	85	61	рс
Charleston, WV	85	71	рс	80	60	t	Omaha	75	54	рс	79	62	S
Chicago	78	60	t	74		рс	Philadelphia	90	74	рс	88	68	t
Cleveland	88		рс	78	63	рс	Phoenix	103	81	рс	102	81	рс
Dallas	81	70		83	71	t	Portland, ME	79	61	S	78	64	рс
Denver	77	52	S	87	57	t	Providence	82	67		81	69	рс
Detroit	86	64	t	77	58	рс	Raleigh	88	74		91	68	t
El Paso	94	69	t	88	68	t	Rapid City	70	46	рс	81	54	S
Fairbanks	59	51	C	66	51	C	Reno	97	63	S	93	63	S
Fargo	69	47		75	58	рс	Sacramento	91	60		90	60	
Honolulu	86	76	sh	86	75	рс	St. Louis	82	63	t	81	63	S
Houston	92	74	t	89	74	t	Salt Lake City	90	64	S	95	70	S
Indianapolis	80	62	t	75	57	рс	San Diego	78	67	рс	79	67	рс
Jacksonville	97	73	t	97	74	рс	San Francisco	73	58	рс	71	57	рс
Kansas City	76	55	t	80	59	S	Seattle	94	59	S	78	55	S
Las Vegas	103	82	S	98	79	S	Tucson	96	73	t	95	74	
Little Rock	85	71	t	85	66	рс	Washington, DC	93	75	рс	90	70	t
Los Angeles	82	63	рс	82	63	рс	Wichita	77	57	рс	84	60	S
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain,													

sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.