



Leander ISD Off Campus Physical Education Program

Purpose of the Off-Campus Physical Education Program (OCPE):

To maintain compliance with the Texas Education Code (19 TAC Chapter 74) and provide training opportunities for Olympic quality athletes, Leander ISD offers students a waiver process for Off Campus PE programs. This waiver process allows students to earn physical education credit towards their state graduation credits by participating in approved off campus PE programs. The belief behind this waiver program is to provide the opportunity to protect the academic success of an elite Olympic or National caliber athlete and to avoid possible injury in the regular PE class that may compromise his/her continued participation in their off-campus program. Request for waivers for approval of private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs will be considered in the two following categories. Participation in the OCPE program is limited to students enrolled in a Leander ISD school. Credit will not be retroactively approved.

OCPE Program Descriptions:

CATEGORY 1: *Category 1 is available for students grades 6-12.*

- Private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs that lead to Olympic or National level participation and/or competition. These programs involve a minimum of fifteen (15) hours per week, not including competitions/performances, of highly intense, professionally supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified to be of exceptional quality by the superintendent or his/her designee. These hours must be Monday through Saturday.
- Students participating at this level may receive a maximum of one-half credit per semester. For students grades 9-12, a total of one credit may be earned toward state high school graduation requirements.
- Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one period per day for such participation per campus principal's approval. Students dismissed must not be permitted to miss any academic class (other than PE). Students should not be assigned another core or elective class to fill out a regular day in lieu of leaving campus for off-campus PE. Students may select the first or last period of the day, with approval from the Campus Counselor.
- Students who discontinue the off-campus Category 1 during a semester will be enrolled in a regular PE class for the remainder of the semester to complete the PE credit for that semester.
- It is anticipated that only a very limited number of students will qualify for this exceptional level of participation.

CATEGORY 2: *Category 2 is available for students grades 6-12.*

- Private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs as certified by the superintendent or his/her designee to be of high quality, well-supervised appropriately trained instructors, and must consist of a minimum of five (5) hours per school week (Monday through Saturday, not including competitions or performances).
- Students participating at this level may receive a maximum of one-half credit per semester. A total of one credit may be earned toward state high school graduation requirements; during the student's high school enrollment period.
- Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day. They are not enrolled in a PE class, and must select an elective to replace that course.
- Students who discontinue the off-campus Category 2 during a semester will be enrolled in a regular PE class for the remainder of the year.

Activities Eligible for Participation in OCPE:

Students may not be enrolled in off campus PE and any other general physical education class or physical education substitution course at the same time. Students who sign up for OCPE or athletics are expected to honor their commitment for the full year. For an OCPE waiver to be granted, LISD will follow the guidelines set by the law as stated in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC)§74.11(d)(7)(C). The term “appropriate” implies, amongst other things, that the substitute activity is in congruence with the Physical Education Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as closely as possible, if not above and beyond the rigor of standards. Agencies and instructors must be located within reasonable driving distance from the student’s campus. Students may not utilize two agencies or combine activities to reach the hour requirement. All activities must be directly supervised by an approved agency and instructor.

Agencies and Instructors Eligible to Provide OCPE:

The training facility, instructor and activity must be certified by the superintendent or a designated program administrator. Any private or commercially-sponsored agency must provide documentation to the Leander ISD athletic department that demonstrates exceptional quality, a professional trained staff, and the use of standards to verify participation of the student. Instructors must pass an annual background check and provide proof of CPR certification. All hours counting toward OCPE must be directly supervised by an approved coach. Students may not utilize two agencies, or combine activities to reach the hour requirement. Leander ISD personnel will make announced and unannounced site visits and will be expecting to see evidence of attendance records and practice plans. Failure to provide attendance records and practice places when requested could result in removal of the agency from the approved list. If an agency is not utilized for two years, it will be removed from the approved list. The list of approved agencies can be found [here](#). Agencies and instructors that wish to be approved must contact Assistant Athletic Director Kimberly.Davies@leanderisd.org for more information.

Student/Parent Responsibilities:

1. All documentation from parents and agency/instructors must be completed and submitted to the Campus Counselor by May 31st, 2019 at 4:00 pm. It is suggested that parents and students start this process at least 2-3 weeks before the deadline to meet all the documentation and schedule requirements. Failure to have a completed application submitted on time will result in denial of the waiver request and the student will be placed in a PE class until the next application period is open.
2. Students may only participate with one agency at a time. Agencies cannot be combined to reach the hour requirement. Summer activities will not be counted.
3. All students must earn a numerical grade of 70 or higher to pass each OCPE course. The final course grade will be determined by the average of each three six week’s numerical grades given by the OCPE Agency. By signing the OCPE application, the student, the parent, and the OCPE agency/instructor understand and acknowledge that this program will substitute for a PE course required for graduation, a numeric grade will be issued, and that failure to complete any of the program requirements may result in the student receiving a failing grade.
4. Students who qualify for Category 1 must leave campus at the assigned time. Parents/students are responsible for transportation for their chosen activity, as well as liability should anything occur during that time. Parents and students should familiarize themselves with the checkout process at their campus before applying to participate.
5. Students should report and adhere to the practice days and times listed on the application. Leander ISD will perform unannounced attendance checks. The LISD athletic department will give one warning to the student for attendance non-compliance. If a second breach of attendance requirements occurs, the Leander ISD athletic department will dismiss the student from the OCPE program and enroll them immediately in a PE class at the campus. Competitions/performances do not count towards the total hours of practice.
6. School absences to attend OCPE activities will not be excused. This is due to mandatory school attendance laws related to activities not supervised by Leander ISD employees.

Agency/Instructor Responsibilities:

1. Instructors must provide Leander ISD with current contact information, credentials, CPR certification, and Background checks prior to the start of the school semester. For information on how to become an approved agency, please contacting Assistant Athletic Director Kimberly.Davies@Leanderisd.org for more information.
2. Instructors must be “exceptionally trained”, meaning that the agency must provide certification and/or documentation of instructor training and expertise.
3. Instructors shall provide all documentation of students’ hours of participation, attendance, and six weeks’ pass/fail grade to the students’ counselors on or before the identified date listed on the pass/fail form. Students participating in Category 1 must have a minimum of 15 hours per week for each grading period. Students participating in Category 2 must have a minimum of 5 hours per week for each grading period. Failure to turn in forms on time will result in failure to receive credit. The calendar with each grading deadline can be found at www.leanderisd.org.
4. Agencies must notify Leander ISD within 10 days if the student drops out or changes programs/facilities.
5. Leander ISD personnel will make announced and unannounced site visits and will be expecting to see evidence of attendance records and practice plans. Leander ISD will be looking for skill development, learned physical activity and health concepts and social development by observing students participating in appropriate activities. The LISD athletic office will give one warning to the agency for non-compliance. If a second breach of OCPE program requirements occurs, the Leander ISD athletic department will dismiss the agency from the OCPE program and students will no longer be able to utilize them for OCPE.
6. The agency will be dismissed from the OCPE program if there is evidence that the criteria and/or requirements are not being met.

Application Procedure for Students: *due by May 31st, 2019 at 4:00pm*

1. A new OCPE application must be submitted to the Campus Counselor each year.
2. Students will be placed in OCPE when they confirm the course selection with their Campus Counselor.
3. Parents/Guardians may obtain the OCPE Student Application on the Leander ISD website.
4. Parents/Guardians should fully complete the application with all required signatures, and documentation.
5. Applications are to be turned in to the Campus Counselor. The deadline is May 31st, 2019 at 4:00pm. Deadlines will be strictly enforced.
6. Campus Counselors will submit applications to the district office where they are approved or denied.
7. The LISD District Office will notify parents and Campus Counselors within 3 - 4 weeks of the deadline via email when the application has been approved or denied.

Athletics, Tryouts Exceptions, & Off Campus PE:

1. Exceptions to the application deadline will only be made for New to LISD students who enroll and register for classes after the May 31st, 2019 deadline. New to LISD students have 3 weeks from the date of enrollment to apply for OCPE. After that date, they will be ineligible to apply for OCPE, and will need to wait until the next application period to apply to participate in OCPE.
2. Students cannot be enrolled and/or participate in OCPE at the same time as another course that awards PE credit.
3. Students signing up for OCPE or athletics are expected to honor their commitment for the full year. Students are not permitted to switch in and out of OCPE and athletics. Should a student decide to drop athletics or OCPE, they will be placed in PE for the remainder of the year.
 - a. MS Only - If a student is cut from a team, they will remain in the athletic period for the remainder of the year and are not eligible to participate in OCPE until the next application period.
 - b. MS Only - if a student is enrolled in OCPE in the fall, but makes the basketball team, they can be moved into the athletic period, but must stay in athletics for the remainder of the school year.
 - c. HS only - if a student is cut from a team, they will be moved into PE. Should the HS student wish to participate in OCPE, they have three weeks from the date of the cut to turn in the OCPE application. After that date, they will be ineligible to apply for OCPE and will need to wait until the next application period should they wish to participate in the program.