

Sample Safety Plan - Elementary School

You may use this form or create your own. Clearly outline the specific ways that student safety is addressed in your facilities. Include strategies if you have a greater than 1:45 teacher/student ratio.

Per the Texas Education Code, Chapter 25.114, page 7 (D)

If a school places more than 45 students to 1 teacher in a physical education class, the school must have a safety plan to provide for the safe instruction of these students.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommendation (Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities, page 7 - D) for the square footage of an elementary school gym is 3,000 square feet. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommendation for the appropriate, safe amount of space required for any age K-12 student for participation in physical activity is 110 - 150 square feet.

Using these recommendations from TEA and NASPE, the appropriate class size for elementary physical education classes should be 20-25 students. (3,000 square feet divided by the recommended 110-150 square feet per student to participate)

Given the size of the gym, the number of teachers to teach, and the law requiring students in physical education classes to be physically active at a moderate to vigorous level 50% of class time, these are the strategies for keeping the students safe in this overcrowded environment.

1. Students will be moved to an outdoor teaching environment with a larger space at every opportunity. This may limit the curriculum/TEKS instruction provided.
2. Parents will be asked to assist the physical education teacher by volunteering their time during this class period.
3. The school administrators will hire a certified para-professional to assist with teaching and/or crowd control.
4. The certified physical education teacher(s) will work overtime to provide instruction and leadership to the volunteer parents and/or teaching aide in class management skills addressing crowd control.
5. The school administrators will ask for other certified teachers with no class during this period to assist in the gym and dressing room with teaching and/or crowd control.
6. The school nurse will be notified of the overcrowded class to be prepared in case of increased injuries.

Sample Safety Plan - Middle School

You may use this form or create your own. Clearly outline the specific ways that student safety is addressed in your facilities. Include strategies if you have a greater than 1:45 teacher/student ratio.

Per the Texas Education Code, Chapter 25.114, page 7 (D)

If a school places more than 45 students to 1 teacher in a physical education class, the school must have a safety plan to provide for the safe instruction of these students.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommendation (Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities, page 7 - D) for the square footage of a middle school gym is 4,800 square feet. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommendation for the appropriate, safe amount of space required for any age K-12 student for participation in physical activity is 110 - 150 square feet.

Using these recommendations from TEA and NASPE, the appropriate class size for middle physical education classes should be 32-44 students. (4,800 square feet divided by the recommended 110-150 square feet per student to participate)

Given the size of the gym, the number of teachers to teach, and the law requiring students in physical education classes to be physically active at a moderate to vigorous level 50% of class time, these are the strategies for keeping the students safe in this overcrowded environment.

1. Students will be moved to an outdoor teaching environment with a larger space at every opportunity. This may limit the curriculum/TEKS instruction provided.
2. Parents will be asked to assist the physical education teacher by volunteering their time during this class period.
3. The school administrators will hire a certified para-professional to assist with teaching and/or crowd control.
4. The certified physical education teacher(s) will work overtime to provide instruction and leadership to the volunteer parents and/or teaching aide in class management skills addressing crowd control.
5. The school administrators will ask for other certified teachers with no class during this period to assist in the gym and dressing room with teaching and/or crowd control.
6. The school nurse will be notified of the overcrowded class to be prepared in case of increased injuries.

Sample Safety Plan - High School

You may use this form or create your own. Clearly outline the specific ways that student safety is addressed in your facilities. Include strategies if you have a greater than 1:45 teacher/student ratio.

Per the Texas Education Code, Chapter 25.114, page 7 (D)

If a school places more than 45 students to 1 teacher in a physical education class, the school must have a safety plan to provide for the safe instruction of these students.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommendation (Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities, page 7 - D) for the square footage of a high school gym is 7,500 square feet. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommendation for the appropriate, safe amount of space required for any age K-12 student to participate in physical activity is 110 - 150 square feet.

Using these recommendations from TEA and NASPE and based on moving space alone no more than 50-68 students (7,500 square feet divided by the recommended 150 square feet per student to participate) should be scheduled in the same facility. Best Practices appropriate teaching ratios are recommended at 25 students to 1 teacher. The 50-68 students for a 7,500 square foot high school gym would provide enough space for two classes of 25-34 students.

When this ratio cannot be achieved and there are more than 45 students assigned to one teacher the following procedures should be applied.

Given the size of the gym, the number of teachers to teach, and the law requiring students in physical education classes to be physically active at a moderate to vigorous level 50% of class time, these are the strategies for keeping the students safe in this overcrowded environment.

1. Students will be moved to an outdoor teaching environment with a larger space at every opportunity. This may limit the curriculum/TEKS instruction provided.
2. Parents will be asked to assist the physical education teacher by volunteering their time during this class period.
3. The school administrators will hire a certified para-professional to assist with teaching and/or crowd control.
4. The certified physical education teacher(s) will work overtime to provide instruction and leadership to the volunteer parents and/or teaching aide in class management skills addressing crowd control.
5. The school administrators will ask for other certified teachers with no class during this period to assist in the gym and dressing room with teaching and/or crowd control.
6. The school nurse will be notified of the overcrowded class to be prepared in case of increased injuries.