



Summary of 2007 Legislation Relative to Childhood Obesity

Body Mass Index (BMI) Assessments

Act 201 of 2007 by Representative Kevin Anderson

- Changes periodicity of BMI screening to every 2 years starting in K through 10th grade. Parallels other screens – vision and hearing.
- Parents have written opt out capacity
- Provides for enhanced policies and procedures to secure privacy and uniformity in measurement

Senator Shane Broadway and Representative Anderson filed an interim study to address the timing of health screens within the academic calendar and the processes for screening.

Physical Activity

Act 317 by Representative John Paul Wells

An act to increase class time by limiting mandated physical activity time in grades K-12. This bill provides for 60 minutes of physical education weekly and 90 minutes of physical activity weekly for kindergarten through 5th grade only. There is no requirement for physical activity in grades 6-12.

Child Health Advisory Committee (CHAC)

Act 719 of 2007 by Senator Bill Pritchard

Calls for CHAC's expanded role in Coordinated School Health and adds new membership.

- CHAC will make recommendations concerning the implementation of the Arkansas Coordinated School Health Program—expansion beyond physical activity and nutritional standards
- Five new members added (for a total of 25), including representation from:
 - Office of Minority Affairs at the Arkansas Department of Health
 - Arkansas School Board Association
 - Arkansas Association of School Business Officials
 - Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
 - A classroom teacher