



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Superintendent
of Schools
Randolph E Ward, Ed.D.

MAR 25 2009

March 24, 2009

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 351 (Salas) Physical Education
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Brownley:

On behalf of the San Diego County Office of Education, I am writing to urge your support for AB 351 (Salas). We believe that it is important to provide students with quality physical fitness opportunities, and ask for your support of this legislation to help California school communities meet this objective.

AB 351 provides school children with more opportunities to meet the state's physical education requirement by counting participation in interscholastic athletic programs, marching band, drill team, and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps toward meeting the PE instructional minutes requirement outlined in state law. This legislation would provide formal recognition of these rigorous fitness regiments that are critical to students' educational experiences and that prepare them well for the FITNESSGRAM, the state's comprehensive series of physical fitness tests.

These programs have been, are and should continue to be an important part of the California high school experience—they are chief among the activities that keep many of our kids coming to school. But without AB 351 and in the midst of this financial crisis, school districts will be hard pressed to continue providing these programs. The state should not impose barriers for school districts that wish to preserve such critical programs that prepare students to meet the standards to be considered physically fit.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 351 and the elimination of current bureaucratic impediments to providing students with quality physical fitness opportunities. We urge you and your colleagues on the Assembly Education Committee to vote for AB 351.

Sincerely,

Barrett Snider
Legislative Advocate

Copy: Members, Assembly Education Committee
Assembly Member Mary Salas
Gerry Shelton, Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Chelsea Kelley, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Robert Becker, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Board of Education

Nick Aguilar • Susan Hartley • Sharon C. Jones • Robert J. Watkins • John Witt