

A STUDY OF THE STATUS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
IN CLASS A HIGH SCHOOLS IN MISSISSIPPI

by 4589

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B.S., Alcorn College, 1961

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1970

Approved by:


Major Professor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere appreciation is expressed to T. M. Evans, chairman of the Department of Physical Education, and Associate Professor Raymond A. Wauthier of the Department of Physical Education at Kansas State University for their personal and professional advice and their time and effort throughout this study.

Appreciation is also expressed to the forty high school coaches for their cooperation and assistance in making this study possible.

Finally, the author wishes to acknowledge his profound indebtedness to his wife, Georgia M. Smith, whose numerous suggestions, wise counsel have contributed so greatly to the present work.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to determine the overall status of physical education in Class A high schools in Mississippi.

It was hoped that information in this report may be valuable to other physical educators in established schools in evaluating their programs of physical education.

METHOD OF STUDY

The first step in this study was to conduct a comprehensive survey of literature relative to this problem. The survey failed to produce any great quantity of material pertaining to the physical education programs in Class A high schools in Mississippi.

A simple, short answer questionnaire was constructed to collect information pertaining to size of school, program, facilities, equipment, and staff.

The questionnaire consisted of a four-page form and included yes and no questions, and fill-in answer.

It was felt this type questionnaire would take less time to answer and would result in more returns and hence a more accurate and complete study.

A copy of the questionnaire was included in the Appendix.

According to the Handbook published by Magnolia State High School Activities Association (5) any school with an enrollment exceeding 500 students was classified, athletically, as a class A high school. This group of

schools was selected by the writer to determine the present status of physical education in these schools.

A list of class A high school coaches was obtained from the Mississippi Educational Directory for 1969-70.(6) A questionnaire was mailed to each of the class A coaches listed in the handbook. For the convenience of each coach a self-addressed, stamped return envelope was included with each questionnaire.

Twenty-eight of the schools replied to the initial questionnaire. A follow-up letter with an additional questionnaire resulted in twelve more returns, leaving a total of twelve schools not included in this study.

The tabulated results of the questionnaire polling were:

Questionnaires mailed	52
Questionnaires returned	40
Percentage of return.	77

Tables were set up for each question on the questionnaire and as each answered questionnaire was returned, the data from each was recorded for final analysis and interpretations. All but six of the schools answered the questions completely or answered the questions which applied to their school situation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Each question was stated as it appeared on the survey questionnaire. This was followed by an analysis and interpretation of the table which was set up for each question.

Table I shows the enrollment of class A high schools in Mississippi.

TABLE I
ENROLLMENT OF CLASS A HIGH SCHOOL IN MISSISSIPPI

GROUPING BY SIZE OF SCHOOL	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	TOTAL STUDENTS ENROLLED
2400 - 1500	2	3,900
1499 - 1000	6	11,334
999 - 900	4	4,057
899 - 800	8	6,852
799 - 700	11	8,281
699 - 600	4	2,444
599 - 500	<u>5</u>	<u>2,766</u>
TOTAL	40	39,634

As shown in Table I, the enrollment of class A high schools in Mississippi varied from a high of 2400 students to a low of 500. There were 9 class A high schools in the two lower enrollment groupings. This represented 22 per cent of the reporting schools. However, in the schools listed in the upper two enrollment groupings, the enrollment was approximately 54 per cent greater than the enrollment in the lower two groupings. In comparing the number of boys and girls enrolled in physical education the writer found a great variance. This ranged from a high of 900 boys enrolled in physical education, to a low of 50 boys enrolled. The range for girls was a high of 800 enrolled in physical education in one school to a low of 60.

Table II shows the number of boys and girls enrolled in physical education.

TABLE II
THE NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS ENROLLED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GROUPINGS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF SCHOOL	TOTAL NO. OF BOYS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	TOTAL NO. OF BOYS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PER CENT	TOTAL NO. OF GIRLS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	TOTAL NO. GIRLS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PER CENT
1500 - 2400	1600	1326	82	2300	1956	85
1499 - 1000	2882	1656	57	8452	5400	64
999 - 900	2205	1500	68	1852	1275	69
899 - 800	3751	2125	57	3101	1850	60
799 - 700	4296	2365	52	3985	1615	41
699 - 600	1169	307	26	1275	338	27
500 - 599	<u>1295</u>	<u>687</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>1471</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>48</u>
TOTALS	17,198	9,966	58%	22,436	13,141	56%

In Table II, the 40 class A schools were set up into frequency groupings according to size of the school. There were 17,198 boys enrolled in the schools and 9,966 were enrolled in physical education, for a percentage of 58. There were 22,436 girls enrolled in the schools and 13,141, or 56 per cent, were enrolled in physical education. There was a higher percentage of boys, 69 percent enrolled in physical education in the upper three groups as compared to 44 percent enrolled in physical education in the lower three groupings. The same comparison was true of girls, where 73 per cent were enrolled in the upper three groupings in physical education, and 38 per cent were enrolled in the lower three groupings.

In one of the groupings only 26 per cent of the boys and 27 per cent of the girls were enrolled in physical education. This low percentage was due to two schools in that grouping not having a physical education program..

Table III shows health examinations required for students in physical education.

PROGRAM

Question 1. Are health examinations required for students in physical education? Twenty per cent of the schools indicated health examinations were required in their schools. Thirty-two of the schools stated that health examinations were not required. This represented 80 per cent of the schools reporting.

Questions were included in the questionnaire which would result in as much information concerning the physical education program as possible.

Such areas of the program were health examinations, modified program, electives, credit, grading system, class size, interscholastic sports, intramurals, and activities in the required service program.

TABLE III
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT

REQUIRED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	8	20
No	32	80

Question 2. How often are health examinations required?

Of the eight schools indicating that health examinations were required, three of these schools, or 37 per cent, required an examination yearly. Five schools required an examination when students enter the tenth grade or senior high for 63 per cent.

Table IV shows how often are health examinations required.

TABLE IV
WHEN ARE HEALTH EXAMINATIONS GIVEN?

WHEN GIVEN	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yearly	3	37
Sophomore Year	5	63

Question 3. Are health examinations given by the family physician?
The health examinations required by the eight schools
were all administered by the family physician.

Table V shows health examinations given by the family physician.

TABLE V
WHO GIVES HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

FAMILY PHYSICIAN	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	8	100
No	0	

Question 4. Does the physical education program include a corrective or modified program for those not qualified physically for the regular course? Even though some schools did not require a health examination, certain schools had some type of modified program for students not physically able to participate in the regular course. It was assumed the physical education instructor or school nurse, or a combination of the two selected the students.

Table VI shows the physical education program include a corrective or modified program for those not qualified physically for the regular course.

TABLE VI
CORRECTIVE OR MODIFIED PROGRAM

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	20	50
No	20	50

Question 5. How many students were enrolled in your modified program for the fall of 1969? There were four schools that did not indicate the number of students in their modified program. Five schools reported 15 pupils were enrolled in the modified physical education class. This represented 25 per cent of the schools reporting a program. It is evident most of the schools include the handicapped students along with the normal students in the physical education classes. The result of this question pointed out the need for improving the modified programs in the schools or that the modified program should be eliminated and adjustments made for the handicapped students in the regular class.

Table VII shows how many students were enrolled in the modified program for the fall of 1969.

TABLE VII
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE MODIFIED PROGRAM

NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS REPLYING	PER CENT
15	5	25
9	3	15
12	2	10
13	1	5
24	1	5
16	1	5
11	1	5
14	1	5
6	1	5
No indication	4	20

Question 6. Is a student allowed to elect from a group of activities in the required physical education program?

Two high schools offered a program in which a student could elect activities. Ninety-five per cent of the schools did not permit students to elect groups of activities in physical education.

Table VIII shows the number of students allowed to elect from a group of activities in the required physical education program.

TABLE VIII
STUDENTS PERMITTED TO ELECT GROUPS OF ACTIVITIES

ELECT ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	2	5
No	38	95

Question 7. What are fields of activities in which it is possible for students to elect?

Of the five schools permitting students to elect from groups of activities, all offered about the same group of electives, namely, rhythmic, team sports, and individual sports.

Table IX shows the fields of activities in which it is possible for students to elect.

TABLE IX
ELECTIVES WHICH STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE

ELECTIVES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
Combatives	3
Rhythmic	4
Team Sports	4
Individual	4

Question 8. What unit of credit is given for the physical education classes per semester?

Twenty-five per cent, or 10, of the reporting schools gave one-half credit per semester. Twelve schools, or

30 per cent, gave one-fourth credit per semester. Four schools, or ten per cent, gave one-fifth credit per semester. Eight schools did not reply to this question.

Table X shows what unit of credit is given for the physical education classes per semester.

TABLE X
CREDIT GIVEN PER SEMESTER FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CREDIT GIVEN	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
1/2	10	25
1/4	12	30
1/5	4	10
1	6	15
No reply	8	20

Question 9. Are participants in intra murals given physical education credit?

Eighty-five per cent of the reporting schools did not give physical education credit for intramural participation. Fifteen per cent indicated credit was given in physical education for intramural participation.

Table XI shows participants in intramurals given physical education credit.

TABLE XI
PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT FOR INTRAMURAL PARTICIPATION

RECEIVE CREDIT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	6	15
No	34	85

Question 10. Are participants in interscholastic sports given physical education credit.

Physical education credit was given for interscholastic sports participation in 16 of the class A high schools which represented 40 per cent. Twenty-four, or 60 per cent, gave no credit in physical education for participation in interscholastic sports.

Table XII shows participants in interscholastic sports given physical education credit.

TABLE XII
PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

RECEIVE CREDIT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	16	40
No	24	60

Question 11. What are some other activities, besides intramurals and interscholastic sports in which a student may receive physical education credit?

It was evident from questions 10 and 11 that students were given permission to substitute different types of activities for required physical education. The results of question 11 indicated 20 per cent of the schools gave credit in physical education for such extra class activities as band, and drill team. According to the policies set up by the State Board of Education, one full unit of physical education is required for graduation from high school.

Table XIII shows some other activities, besides intramurals and interscholastic sports, in which a student may receive physical education credit.

TABLE XIII

ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN INTRAMURALS AND INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS
IN WHICH PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT IS GIVEN

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT OF TOTAL SCHOOLS
Band and Drill Team	8	20

Question 12. How often do physical education classes meet each week? Twenty-two, or 55 per cent of the class A high schools, scheduled physical education classes five times a week. Thirteen schools, or 32.5 per cent, alternated physical education classes with other subjects three times one week, and two times the next week. Five schools, or 12.5 per cent, had physical education classes meeting four times a week.

Table XIV shows how often physical education classes meet each week.

TABLE XIV
TIME PER WEEK PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES MET

NUMBER OF TIMES CLASSES MET PER WEEK	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
5	22	55.
Alternate (3 one week, 2 next)	13	32.5
4	5	12.5

Question 13. What is the length of the physical education class period in minutes? (Including dressing and showering time)

The 60-minute class period was most commonly used by the reporting schools. This was reported by 16 schools, or 40 per cent. Fifteen schools, or 37.5 per cent, reported using the 57-minute period. 12.5 per cent, or five schools, use the 55-minute period. The shortest class period reported by any school was 50 minutes.

Table XV shows the length of the physical education class period in minutes.

TABLE XV
LENGTH OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS PERIOD.

LENGTH OF CLASS PERIOD	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
60	16	40
57	15	37.5
55	5	12.5
54	2	5
50	2	5

Question 14. What factors determine the size of the classes?

Facility accommodations was the most popular factor in determining the size of classes. Twenty-two schools reported the facility accommodations factor for a percentage of 55. Ten schools determined the class size by the number of instructors available. This represented 25 per cent of the schools. Eight schools, or 20 per cent, assigned students to physical education without consideration for any factors other than to meet the physical education requirements. According to the writer's experience, assigning students in this manner leads to certain problems such as too many students assigned to a class, or variation in grades, age, etc.

Table XVI shows what factors determine the size of the classes.

TABLE XVI
FACTORS THAT DETERMINE SIZE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FACTORS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Facility accommodation	22	55
Number of students per instructor	10	25
Number of students who need the course	8	20

Question 15. What factors are used in determining the grades for the physical education program?

Attendance of students was the most common factor for the determination of grades. This was indicated by 35 schools, or 87.5 per cent of the schools. Thirty-three schools, or 82.5 per cent, reported sportsmanship as a grade determiner. Other grade determining factors and percentages were: Hygiene inspection, 75 per cent; Knowledge Tests covering activities studied, 70 per cent; Physical Fitness, 60 per cent; Demonstration and performance test of skills, 57.5 per cent; Achievement tests, 50 per cent; and attitude, 37.5 per cent.

Table XVII shows what factors are used in determining the grades for the physical education program.

TABLE XVII
FACTORS WHICH DETERMINE PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADES

GRADE DETERMINING FACTOR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Attendance	35	87.5
Sportsmanship	33	82.5
Hygiene Inspection	30	75
Knowledge tests covering activities studied	28	70
Physical fitness	24	60
Demonstration and performance test of skills	23	57.5
Achievement Tests	20	50
Attitude	15	37.5

Question 16. What grading system is used in your school?

Thirty-three schools used the A, B, C, D, F grading system, which represented 82.5 per cent of the high schools. This seemed to be the most popular grading system in physical education used by the class A schools. Two other grading systems indicated were the S and U, as reported by the four schools, or 10 per cent, and the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 grading system as reported by four schools also, for a 7.5 per cent.

Table XVIII shows what grading system is used in the schools.

TABLE XVIII
GRADING SYSTEMS USED BY CLASS A HIGH SCHOOLS

TYPE OF GRADING SYSTEM	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
A, B, C, D, F	33	82.5
S and U	4	10
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3	7.5

Question 17. What interscholastic sports are participated in by the school?

Basketball, football, and track were the three major team sports in the interscholastic athletic program for class A high schools in Mississippi.

All 40 schools fielded teams in these three sports.

Thirty-eight schools, or 95 per cent reported having a baseball team.

Table XIX shows what interscholastic sports are participated in by the schools.

TABLE XIX
INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

SPORTS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Basketball	40	100
Football	40	100
Track	40	100
Baseball	38	95

Question 18. What intramural activities are offered by your school?

The intramural programs vary considerably in the class A schools. It was evident after studying the results of this question that some schools offer an outstanding program. On the other hand two schools had no intramural program at all. In the 38 schools offering an intramural program, 38 or 100 per cent offered badminton in their program. Another sport of interest to 36 schools, or 94.7 per cent, was basketball. Badminton and basketball were played in the gymnasium, and students were highly interested in these two sports.

Touch football was offered by 33 schools, or 89.4 per cent, in their intramural program. Other sports offered by ten or more of the schools were table tennis, softball, baseball, track and archery.

Table XX shows what intramural activities are offered by the schools.

TABLE XX
INTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES

LIST OF ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Badminton	38	100
Basketball	36	94.7
Volleyball	33	89.4
Touch Football	10	25
Table Tennis	9	22.5
Tennis	8	20
Softball	7	17.5
Baseball	6	15
Track	2	5
No Activities	3	7.5
Archery	3	7.5

Question 19. What are the activities studied in your physical education program?

All 40 of the reporting schools indicated basketball and volleyball were the two major activities offered in their physical education program. Thirty-eight, or 95 per cent of the schools listed touch football as one of their activities. Thirty-seven, or 92.5 per cent, offered tumbling and badminton in the physical education curriculum.

Other major activities offered by at least a majority of the schools were soccer, speedball, dodgeball, and horseshoes.

Table XXI shows what activities studied in the physical education program.

TABLE XXI
ACTIVITIES IN THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES OFFERED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Basketball	40	100
Volleyball	40	100
Touch Football	38	95
Tumbling	37	92.5
Badminton	37	92.5
Soccer	36	90
Speedball	32	80
Dodgeball	30	75
Horseshoes	28	70

Question 20. Is health included in the high school curriculum?

This question was included in the questionnaire to get an insight as to the health trends in class A high schools, 24, or 60 per cent, included some health at the high school level. While sixteen schools, or 40 per cent, had no health instruction in the high school.

Table XXII shows health included in the high school curriculum.

TABLE XXII
HEALTH IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

IS IT INCLUDED?	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	24	60
No	16	40

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The writer presently employed in a high school equipped with new facilities and equipment for physical education included this section to discover present practices being used by class A high schools. It was hoped this section would serve as a guide to solve existing problems as well as aiding in solving of future problems.

Question 1. How much money was budgeted for the 1969-70 school year for physical education?

Result of the tabulation of this question showed that instructors, reporting from 15 schools, were not familiar with the amount of money budgeted for the 1969-70 school year for physical education. This represented 37.5 per cent of the replying schools. In schools where a budget was used for the physical education program the designated funds ranged from a high \$2,400 to a low \$150. Ten schools indicated a budget of \$1,000 or more.

Table XXIII shows how much money was budgeted for the 1969-70 school year for physical education.

TABLE XXIII
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY BUDGETED FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MONEY BUDGETED IN DOLLARS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Not known	15	37.5
250	4	10
150	3	7.5
1000	3	7.5
2000	3	7.5
2200	3	7.5
800	2	5
700	2	5
2400	1	2.5
500	1	2.5
300	1	2.5
275	1	2.5
200	1	2.5

Question 2. How many outside playfields are available for physical education?

Four schools indicated no outside playfields for physical education. This represents ten per cent of the total schools. Twenty-five, or 62.5 per cent, of the schools have only one

playfield for their games and activities. Fifteen, or 37.5 per cent of the schools had available from none to three playfields for use in physical education classes.

Table XXIV shows how many outside playfields are available for physical education.

TABLE XXIV
OUTSIDE PLAYFIELDS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

NUMBER OF PLAYFIELDS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
1	25	62.5
2	5	12.5
3	3	7.5
4	3	7.5
0	4	10

Question 3. Do you have a swimming pool?

Two of the class A high schools had a swimming pool for a percentage of 5. Ninety-five per cent, or 38 of the class A high schools had no swimming facilities.

Table XXV shows the number of swimming pools in class A high schools.

TABLE XXV
NUMBER OF SWIMMING POOLS IN A HIGH SCHOOLS

HAVE A POOL	NUMBER OF POOLS	PER CENT
Yes	2	5
No	38	95

The following questions were included to determine whether boys and girls physical education classes were held at the same time. Succeeding questions were included to show an indication of how different schools provided for physical education for boys and girls.

Question 4. Are boys and girls physical education classes scheduled at the same period?

There were 32, or 80 per cent of the class A schools scheduled boys and girls physical education classes at the same time. Twenty per cent, or 8 of the class A high schools do not schedule the boys and girls at the same time.

Table XXVI shows the scheduling of boys and girls physical education classes at the same period.

TABLE XXVI
SCHEDULING OF BOYS AND GIRLS PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

SCHEDULED AT THE SAME PERIOD	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	32	80
No	8	20

Question 5. Do you have a separate gymnasium for boys and girls?

There were 40, or 100 per cent, of the class A schools without separate gymnasiums for boys and girls.

Table XXVII shows separate gymnasium for boys and girls.

TABLE XXVII
SEPARATE GYMNASIUM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

SEPARATE GYMNASIUM	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	0	
No	40	100

Question 6. How is the situation taken care of if boys and girls classes are scheduled at the same period?

According to physical educators in the field, schools today should provide for co-educational activities in the physical education program. On the basis of this conclusion many schools encourage scheduling of boys and girls together in classes without fear of embarrassment on the part of either sex.

Sixteen schools had only one gymnasium which was not divided allowing for simultaneous use for boys and girls. This represents 40 per cent of the schools which do not have a separate gymnasium. Ten schools alternated the physical education and health classes. Fourteen schools, or 35 per cent, had curtains to divide the gymnasium.

Table XXVIII shows how the situation is taken care of if boys and girls classes are scheduled at the same period.

TABLE XXVIII
METHODS USED WHEN ONLY ONE GYMNASIUM IS AVAILABLE
FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS

METHOD USED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
No gym division	16	40
Alternate days of health and gym	10	25
Curtain to divide gym	14	35

Question 7. What personal equipment is furnished by your school for physical education classes?

Thirty-five, or 88 per cent of the schools furnish a towel in physical education classes. Soap was furnished by 28, or 70 per cent of the schools. Twenty, or 50 per cent, of the reporting schools furnished a rental combination lock for the students in physical education classes. Gym suits were furnished by ten schools.

Table XXIX shows what personal equipment is furnished by the schools for physical education classes.

TABLE XXIX
PERSONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY SCHOOLS

EQUIPMENT FURNISHED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Towel	35	88
Soap	28	70
Combination Locks (rental)	20	50
Gym Suits	10	25

Question 8. Are students charged a fee for using equipment? If so, how much?

Twenty-eight of the 38 reporting schools charged a fee for the use of physical education equipment. This represents 74 per cent of the class A high schools. Ten, or 26 per cent of the schools, reported no fee was charged for use of equipment.

The amount charged for physical education fees ranged from \$0.75 to \$3.00.

It was evident from this question rental fees were charged to pay for the cost of laundering towels, soap, and combination locks.

Table XXX shows a rental fee for equipment used in physical education.

TABLE XXX
RENTAL FEE FOR EQUIPMENT USED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

IS EQUIPMENT RENTED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT	COST IN DOLLARS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
Yes	28	74	1.20	6
No	10	26	1.00	5
			2.00	4
			2.50	3
			1.50	3
			3.00	3
			1.35	2
			.75	2

Question 9. Describe the type of system used for storing physical education clothes.

The self-service basket system with a lock was used by 19, or 47.5 per cent, of the class A high schools in Mississippi. Individual lockers for clothes storage was used by 40 per cent, or 16 of the reporting schools. A special cage with a teacher or manager to hand out storage baskets, which were stored in the cage, was used by five of the schools, for 12.5 per cent.

Table XXXI shows the type of system used for storing physical education clothes.

TABLE XXXI
SYSTEM USED FOR STORING PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLOTHES

SYSTEM USED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Self service basket with locks	19	47.5
Individual Lockers	16	40
Check out baskets	5	12.5

Question 10. Do you launder your own equipment in your school?

Eight class A high schools in Mississippi laundered their own physical education and athletic equipment. This represented 20 per cent of the A schools. Eighty per cent, or 32 schools, used other services outside of the school to launder their physical education equipment.

Table XXXII shows the laundering of physical education equipment.

TABLE XXXII
LAUNDERING PHYSICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT

SCHOOL DOES LAUNDERING	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	8	20
No	32	80

Question 11. Do you feel the facilities and equipment in your school are adequate? If not, then how can they be improved? Thirty-one, or 77.5 per cent, of the reporting schools indicated a need for improvement of existing facilities and equipment. Nine schools, or 22.5 per cent, of the schools felt present facilities were adequate. Six schools indicated present outdoor facilities as being inadequate. A new gymnasium was needed by five A high schools. Four schools expressed need for improvement of present locker room facilities. Other expressed needs for important improvements for physical education classes such as: Additions to existing facilities, three schools; all new facilities, two schools; own laundry equipment, two schools; new swimming pool, one school; and larger staff, two schools.

Table XXXIII shows facilities and equipment and their improvement.

TABLE XXXIII
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND THEIR IMPROVEMENT

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT	TYPE OF IMPROVEMENT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
Yes	31	77.5	Outdoor facilities	6
No	9	22.5	New gymnasium	5
			Locker room	4
			Additions to existing facilities	3
			Swimming pool	1
			Larger Staff	2
			All new facilities	2

STAFF

In this area more questions were included in the questionnaire pertaining to the physical education staff and their professional training, subjects taught other than physical education, and other duties in the school. Also a question was included to formulate an opinion as to the instructors evaluation of the total physical education program.

Question 1. How many physical education instructors are there in your school?

Fifty per cent of the replying schools indicated there were two physical education instructors in their school. Ten schools, or 25 per cent, had four physical education instructors. The number of physical education instructors ranged from a low of one instructor, reported by three schools, to a high of five instructors reported by four schools.

Table XXXIV shows the number of instructors in physical education.

TABLE XXXIV
NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
2	20	50
4	10	25
3	3	7.5
1	3	7.5
5	4	10

Question 2. Does each instructor have a major in the field of physical education?

Twenty-five schools indicated all physical education instructors had a major in the field of physical education for a percentage of 62.5. Fifteen schools, or 37.5 per cent, indicated not all of the physical education instructors, had a major in the field of physical education.

Table XXXV shows instructors majoring in the field of physical education.

TABLE XXXV
MAJOR IN THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ALL INSTRUCTORS HAVE A MAJOR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	25	62.5
No	15	37.5

Question 3. Do physical education instructors teach other subjects besides physical education? If so, what are the subjects? Twenty-five, or 62.5 per cent of the schools required physical education instructors to teach other subjects in their curriculum. Thirty-eight per cent, or 15, of the schools physical education instructors taught only in their major field of physical education. The most common subject taught concurrently with physical education was health which was reported by six schools. In eight schools physical education instructors taught Mathematics and English. Other subjects taught by physical education instructors were science, history, and driver education. Physical education instructors were also in the administrative field as assistant principals.

Table XXXVI shows physical education instructors teach other subjects beside physical education.

TABLE XXXVI
SUBJECTS TAUGHT OTHER THAN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ARE OTHER SUBJECTS TAUGHT?	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	OTHER SUBJECTS TAUGHT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
Yes	25 62.5%	Health	6
No	15 37.5%	Math, English	8
		Science	5
		History	3
		Driver Education	2
		Assistant Principal	2

Question 4. Do the physical education instructors have coaching duties?

Thirty-eight schools, or 95 per cent required the physical education instructor to coach some athletic sport. Only two of the reporting schools indicated physical education instructors were not used as athletic coaches.

Table XXXVII shows physical education instructors have coaching duties.

TABLE XXXVII
COACHING DUTIES FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

HAVE COACHING DUTIES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	38	95
No	2	5

Question 5. Do physical education instructors direct the intramural program?

There were 30 schools who assigned the physical education instructor the responsibility for directing intramural programs. This represented 75 per cent of the reporting schools. Ten schools, or 25 per cent did not require the physical education instructor to be responsible for intramurals.

Table XXXVIII shows physical education instructors direct the intramural program.

TABLE XXXVIII
RESPONSIBILITY OF INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBLE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	30	75
No	10	25

Question 6. How many clock hours per week does the average physical education staff member spend in the performance of all his duties?

This question was asked to find out whether or not a set figure could be established pertaining to the amount of time spent teaching physical education. However, no set figure was established. Sixteen schools indicated the average time spent by physical education instructors was 45 hours. This represented 40 per cent of the answering schools. The amount of time spent on the job per week ranged from a high 60 hours to a low of 35 hours. The average amount of time spent per week by physical instructors was 45 hours.

Table XXXIX shows how many clock hours per week the average physical education staff member spends in the performance of all his duties.

TABLE XXXIX
THE NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK SPENT ON THE JOB BY
PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
45	16	40
60	8	20
50	6	15
40	5	12.5
35	4	10
56	1	2.5

Question 7. How many classes of physical education do you feel you can effectively teach a day?

There were 20 schools that indicated the instructor could effectively teach five hours a day. This represented 50 per cent of the schools. Fifteen schools, or 37.5 per cent, thought it would be best if physical education instructors taught four periods a day. There were three schools, or 7.5 per cent reporting the physical education instructors could effectively teach six class periods a day. It is felt that when the physical education instructor also coaches, then it would be better to assign only four teaching periods a day. The physical education instructor then would be more capable of doing justice to both assignments of teaching class and coaching.

Table XL shows the number of classes a day which can be taught effectively.

TABLE XL
NUMBER OF CLASSES A DAY WHICH CAN BE TAUGHT EFFECTIVELY

NUMBER OF CLASSES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
5	20	50
4	15	37.5
6	3	7.5
3	2	5

Question 8. What do you feel is the ideal class size for physical education?

There were 12 schools, or 30 per cent, who reported the ideal class size as being 28 students. Ten schools, or 25 per cent, expressed the ideal class size as being 20 students. Eight schools felt the ideal class size to be 30. Six schools indicated the ideal class size as being 19. The average ideal class size indicated by the 40 reporting schools was 26.

Table XLI shows the ideal class size for physical education.

TABLE XLI
IDEAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS SIZE

CLASS SIZE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
28	12	30
20	10	25
30	8	20
19	6	15
35	4	10

Question 9. Do you feel coaches should be physical education instructors?

Administrators and teachers sometime felt the coach should not be teaching physical education because coaching in itself was a full time job and a coach could not perform to his highest efficiency in both areas. Regardless of how educators and administrators felt concerning this issue thirty-one class A schools, or 77.5 per cent, felt physical education instructors should be coaches. There were 9 schools, or 22.5 per cent, who thought coaches should not be physical education instructors.

Table XLII shows coaches should be physical education instructors.

TABLE XLII
COACHES SHOULD BE PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

SHOULD DO BOTH	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	31	77.5
No	9	22.5

Question 10. Do you think health should be taught beyond the ninth grade?

The results of this question clearly indicated the majority of the reporting schools felt there was a need for teaching health beyond the ninth grade.

Thirty-one schools, or 77.5 per cent, answered yes to this question. Nine schools, or 22.5 per cent, did not see a need for health beyond the ninth grade.

Table XLIII shows that health should be taught beyond the ninth grade.

TABLE XLIII
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THAT FELT HEALTH SHOULD
BE TAUGHT BEYOND THE NINTH GRADE

SHOULD BE TAUGHT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	26	65
No	14	35

Question 11. Do you think there should be coeducational activities in the physical education curriculum?

In previous years many high schools have added activities to the physical education curriculum in which boys and girls can participate coeducationally. Seventy per cent,

or 28 of the schools thought there should be coeducational activities in the curriculum. Twelve schools, or 30 per cent, thought there was no place for coeducational activities in the curriculum.

Table XLIV shows there should be coeducational activities in the physical education curriculum.

TABLE XLIV
COEDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	28	70
No	12	30

Question 12. Do you think there should be special classes for the handicapped student in high school?

Twenty-six of the class A schools made some provision for the handicapped student in their school, but 37 schools, or 92.5 per cent, indicated there should be provisions for the handicapped student. Only three schools, or 7.5 per cent, felt there was no need for special classes for the handicapped student.

Table XLV shows there should be special classes for the handicapped student in high school.

TABLE XLV
SPECIAL CLASSES FOR HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

SHOULD BE CLASSES	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	37	92.5
No	3	7.5

Question 13. Do you feel the physical education experiences in your high school are providing opportunities for developing effective citizens for today's society?

It was indicated earlier in the survey, there were two schools that do not have a physical education program. Thirty-five schools, or 92 per cent, felt their school was providing opportunities for students to develop into effective citizens in today's society through their physical education classes.

Table XLVI shows that physical education experiences in the high schools are providing opportunities for developing effective citizens for today's society.

TABLE XLVI
PROVIDING DESIRABLE OPPORTUNITIES IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

PROVIDING EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PER CENT
Yes	35	92
No	3	8

SUMMARY

There were 52 class A high schools in Mississippi. Forty schools replied to the questionnaire concerned with the status of physical education in their school. The enrollments of the schools ranged from a high of 2400 to a low of 500. Fifty-eight per cent of the boys enrolled in class A high schools participated in physical education. Fifty-six per cent of the girls in class A schools were enrolled in physical education.

The 60-minute class period was most commonly used by the reporting schools. The shortest class period was 50 minutes.

Facility accommodation was the most common factor in determining the size of classes as reported by 55 per cent of schools. Other factors used for determining the size of classes were number of students per instructor, reported by 25 per cent of the schools, and number of students who need the course, reported by 20 per cent of the schools.

Thirty-five schools, or 87.5 per cent, indicated the attendance of students was the most common factor for determining grades. Thirty-three schools, or 82.5 per cent, reported sportsmanship as a grade determiner. Other grade determining factors and percentages of school reporting were: Hygiene inspection, 75 per cent; knowledge tests covering activities studied, 70 per cent; physical fitness, 60 per cent; demonstration and performance test of skills, 57.5 per cent; achievement tests, 50 per cent; and attitude in class, 37.5 per cent.

There were three types of grading systems used by the reporting schools. Thirty-three schools used the A, B, C, D, F system. Four schools used the S and U system and three schools used the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 grading system.

In 95 per cent of the schools the students were not allowed to elect activities from the physical education program. Two schools indicated students may elect from such activities as combatives, rhythmic, team sports and individual sports.

Ten, or 25 per cent, of the replying schools gave one-half unit of credit per semester for physical education. Twelve schools gave one-fourth credit per semester. Four schools gave one-fifth credit per semester and six schools gave one credit per semester. There were six schools which gave credit towards physical education for participation in intramurals. Eighty-five per cent of the schools did not give credit for intramurals. Physical education credit for participation in interscholastic sports was given by 16, or 40 per cent, of the class A schools. A majority of the schools did not give credit in physical education for interscholastic participation. Eight schools reported physical education credit was given for participation in such activities as band and drill team.

Fifty-five per cent of the schools had their physical education classes meet five times a week. Thirty-three per cent met on alternate days, and thirteen per cent met four times a week.

There are four interscholastic sports in Mississippi and five schools reported fielding a team in all sports. All 40 schools have basketball, football and track teams. Thirty-eight schools, or 95 per cent, participated in baseball.

The intramural programs vary considerably in class A schools. Some schools have a comprehensive program to offer. There were two schools with no program at all. The most common intramural sports were badminton, basketball, volleyball, touch football, table tennis, and softball.

All 40 of the reporting schools indicated basketball and volleyball were the two major activities offered in their physical education program. Ninety-three per cent of the schools listed tumbling and badminton as one of their activities. Other major activities were soccer, speedball, dodgeball, and horseshoes.

Health was included in 60 per cent of the class A high school curriculum. Thirty-eight per cent, or 15 of the replying schools were not familiar with the amount of money budgeted for the 1969-70 school year for physical education. For those schools that did know, the budget ranged from \$150 to \$2,400.

Four schools indicated no outside play areas for physical education.

There were two class A high schools with swimming pools. This represents five per cent of the schools.

Eighty per cent of the schools reporting, scheduled classes at the same time and divided their gymnasiums with curtains, or they alternated the classes with boys one day in the gymnasium, and girls the next day. Eight of the schools do not schedule boys and girls at the same time.

A towel on a rental basis for physical education was furnished by 88 per cent of the reporting schools. Combination locks on a rental basis were furnished by 50 per cent of the schools. Furnishing the entire gym suit was not a common practice; this was reported by only ten schools. The physical education towel and locker fee ranged from \$0.75 to \$3.00.

The self-service basket gym suit storage system with a lock was used by 47.5 per cent of the schools. Individual lockers for clothes storage was used by 40 percent of the reporting schools. Check-out baskets was the other system used for gym storage.

Only eight, or 20 per cent, of the class A schools had their own laundering system.

Thirty-one, or 77.5 per cent, of the reporting schools indicated a need for improvement of existing facilities and equipment. Six schools indicated present outdoor facilities as being inadequate. A new gymnasium was needed by five A high schools. Four schools expressed need for improvement of present locker room facilities. Others expressed needs for trained physical education instructors. Four schools had five physical education instructors. Twenty-five, or 62.5 per cent, of the physical education instructors had a major in the field of physical education.

Twenty-five, or 62.5 per cent, had the physical education instructors teach other subjects. The most common subjects were health, mathematics, English, science, and history.

In 95 per cent of the schools the physical education instructors had coaching duties. Also 75 per cent of the physical education instructors were responsible for the intramural program.

There was no set standard that could be established as to the number of clock hours per week spent by the physical education instructor in the performance of his duties. This ranged from 35 to 60 hours with 45 hours as the average amount of time spent on the job.

The number of classes a day which the school felt could be effectively taught in physical education, ranged from three to six, with the majority of the schools favoring five classes a day.

Fifty-five per cent of the reporting schools felt the ideal class size in physical education program to be between 20 and 28.

The importance of co-educational activities in the physical education program was indicated by 70 per cent of the reporting schools.

Thirty-five schools, or 92 per cent, felt their school was providing opportunities for students to develop into effective citizens in today's society through their physical education program.

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APPENDIX

A STUDY OF THE STATUS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
IN CLASS A HIGH SCHOOLS IN MISSISSIPPI

QUESTIONNAIRE

I. Enrollment:

1. School enrollment: Boys _____ Girls _____ Total _____
2. Number of students enrolled in physical education: Boys _____
Girls _____

II. Program:

1. Are health examinations required for students in physical education:
Yes _____ No _____
2. How often are health examinations required? _____
3. Are health examinations given by the family physician? _____
4. Does the physical education program include a corrective or modified program for those not qualified physically for the regular course? Yes _____ No _____
5. How many students were enrolled in your modified program for the fall of 1969? _____
6. Is a student allowed to elect from a group of activities in the regular required physical education program? Yes _____ No _____
7. What are fields of activities in which it is possible for students to elect?

Combatives _____
 Rhythmics _____
 Team Sports _____
 Individual Sports _____
 Aquatics _____
 Others _____

8. What unit of credit is given for the physical education classes per semester? _____
9. Are participants in intramurals given physical education credit?
Yes _____ No _____

10. Are participants in interscholastic sports given physical education credit? Yes _____ No _____
11. What are some other activities, beside intramurals and interscholastic sports, in which a student may receive physical education credit?

12. How often do physical education classes meet each week? _____
13. What is the length of the physical education class period in minutes? (Including the dressing and showering time)

14. What factors determine the size of the class?
Facility accommodation _____
Number of students per instructor _____
Number of students who need the course _____
Others _____
15. What factors are used in determining the grades for the physical education program?
Attendance _____
Sportsmanship _____
Hygiene inspection _____
Knowledge tests covering activities studied _____
Physical fitness _____
Demonstration and performance test of skills _____
Achievement tests _____
16. What grading system is used in your school?
A, B, C, D, F _____ S and U _____ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 _____
Other _____
17. What intramural activities are offered by your school?

18. What interscholastic sports are participated in by your school?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

19. What are the activities studied in your physical education program?

Volleyball _____	Basketball _____	Touch Football _____
Gymnastics _____	Badminton _____	Wrestling _____
Tennis _____	Dancing _____	Archery _____
Track _____	Boxing _____	Golf _____
Tumbling _____	Soccer _____	Speedball _____

20. Is health included in the high school curriculum? Yes _____ No _____

Facilities and Equipment:

- How much money was budgeted for the 1968-69 school year for physical education? _____
- How many outside playfields are available for physical education?

- Do you have a swimming pool? Yes _____ No _____
- Are boys and girls physical education classes scheduled at the same period? Yes _____ No _____
- Do you have a separate gymnasium for boys and girls? Yes _____
No _____
- How is the situation taken care of if boys and girls classes are scheduled at the same period? _____
- What personal equipment is furnished by your school for physical education classes?

Towels _____	Others _____
Soap _____	_____
Combination locks (rental) _____	_____
Swim Suits, Trunks _____	_____

8. Are students charged a fee for using equipment? Yes _____ No _____
9. Describe the type of system used for storing physical education clothes. _____
10. Do you launder your own equipment in your school? Yes _____
No _____
11. Do you feel the facilities and equipment in your school are adequate? Yes _____ No _____. If not, then how can they be improved? _____

Staff

1. How many physical education instructors are there in your school?

2. Does each instructor have a major in the field of physical education? Yes _____ No _____
3. Do physical education instructors teach other subjects besides physical education? Yes _____ No _____. If so, what are the subjects? _____

4. Do the physical education instructors have coaching duties?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Do the physical education instructors direct the intramural program? Yes _____ No _____
6. How many clock hours per week does the average physical education staff member spend in the performance of all his duties?

7. How many classes of physical education do you feel you can effectively teach a day? _____
8. What do you feel is the ideal class size for physical education?

9. Do you feel coaches should be physical education instructors?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Do you think health should be taught beyond the ninth grade?
Yes _____ No _____
11. Do you think there should be coeducational activities in the physical education curriculum? Yes _____ No _____

12. Do you think there should be special classes for the handicapped students in high school? Yes _____ No _____
13. Do you feel the physical education experiences in your high school are providing opportunities for developing effective citizens for today's society? Yes _____ No _____

A STUDY OF THE STATUS OF PHYSICAL
EDUCATION IN CLASS A HIGH SCHOOLS
IN MISSISSIPPI

by

Robert Lee Smith

B.S., Alcorn College, 1961

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1970

The purpose of this study was to determine the overall status of physical education in class A high schools in Mississippi.

It was hoped that information in this report may be valuable to other physical educators in established schools in evaluating their programs of physical education.

The first step in this study was to conduct a comprehensive survey of literature relative to this problem. The survey failed to produce any great quantity of material pertaining to the physical education programs in class A high schools in Mississippi.

A simple, short answer questionnaire was constructed to collect information pertaining to size of school, program, facilities, equipment, and staff. The questionnaire consisted of four pages of yes and no questions and fill-in answers.

A list of class A high school coaches was obtained from the Mississippi Educational Directory for 1969-70.

The two most common units of credit given for physical education per semester were one-half credits and one-fourth credit.

In fifty-five per cent of the schools physical education classes meet five times a week. The 60-minute class period was the most common.

Facility accommodation, the number of students per instructor, and the number of students who need the course were the factors which determine the class size in physical education.

Thirty-three of the 40 schools use the A, B, C, D, F grading system.

All 40 schools had interscholastic basketball, football, and track teams.

The most common intramural sports were badminton, basketball, volleyball, touch football, table tennis, tennis, softball, baseball, track, and archery.

Health was included in 60 per cent of the class A high school curriculums.

There were 37.5 per cent of the replying schools which did not know the amount of money budgeted for 1969-70 school year for physical education. For these schools which did not know, the budget ranged from \$150 to \$2,400. One hundred per cent of the schools did not have a separate gymnasium. The other schools either divide the one gymnasium with a folding door or curtain, or do not divide the gymnasium at all.

A towel and lock was furnished by the majority of the schools on a rental basis. The schools indicated the fee ranged from \$0.75 to \$3.00.

Class A schools have either a self-service basket system, individual lockers, or check out baskets for storing gym clothes.

The majority of schools felt their facilities and equipment were inadequate for physical education.

Sixty-two and five-tenth per cent of the schools had the physical education instructor teach other subjects in the school. The physical education instructor also had coaching duties in 95 per cent of the reporting schools. Seventy-eight per cent felt the coach should be the physical education instructor. The majority of schools felt the physical education instructor could effectively teach between 20 and 28 students in a class, five classes a day.

The importance of coeducational activities in the physical education program was indicated by 70 per cent of the reporting schools.

Ninety-two per cent felt their school was providing opportunities for students to develop into effective citizens in today's society through their physical education program.