BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
ACTION REPORT PRESENTATION ON

Unified Physical Education and Leadership

November 23, 2026

Background Information:

Unified Physical Education and Leadership is a ½ credit Physical Education elective for students in high school. Like other existing Physical Education electives like Weight Training and Wellness Walking, this semester-long course would meet the ½ credit Physical Education elective credit required for graduation from HCPS. The course will be open to any HCPS high school student who has already completed the graduation and state required Physical Education 9 course. Students with Individualized Education Plans who are pursuing the Maryland Certificate of Program Completion rather than a diploma are also eligible to take this course.

Unified Physical Education is currently being offered in 8 Maryland Counties: Anne Arundel, Caroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Kent and Queen Anne's. This high school course brings students with and without disabilities together in a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Students are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate alongside their peers in standards-based physical education activities that emphasize physical fitness, skill development, communication, and teamwork. Authentic interactions teach students to value diversity and respect differences while developing leadership, empathy, communication, and teamwork skills.

A unified PE course would also build on the positive experiences HCPS has provided through the Sports for Life program that provides the opportunity for all students to compete in an athletic environment.

Requested Action:

The Superintendent of schools recommends the Board of Education approve the implementation of the physical education elective, Unified PE and Leadership beginning in the 2027 – 2028 school year.