



ESCAMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH, WELLNESS, DRIVER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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KEITH LEONARD, SUPERINTENDENT

August 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Elementary School Principals
Elementary School Assistant Principals/Curriculum Coordinators
Elementary School Physical Education Teachers
Parent/Guardians

FROM: Charmain Sutherland, Specialist
Physical Education, Health, Wellness, and Driver Education

SUBJECT: Safe Footwear for Physical Education, Recess, and Other Physical Activity

In order for students to participate safely and benefit from physical education classes, recess and other physical activity experiences, they must wear appropriate shoes (tennis/athletic shoes).

Toe Shoes, Heelys, backless shoes, slip-ons that are loose and slip off the back heel (e.g. "Crocs"), western boots, sandals, flip-flops, platform shoes (including platform tennis shoes), and high heeled shoes, cleats, etc. are not safe footwear for participation in physical activity. It is highly recommended that students wear tennis/athletic shoes to school each day since they will be participating in daily physical activity.

It is important that classroom teachers adhere to the same policy while they supervise recess and/or other physical activity experiences. Please refer to the *Elementary School Operational Procedures for Daily 20-Minute Recess* and the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for similar language regarding safe footwear.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in ensuring adherence to this very important safety issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Charmain Sutherland, Specialist
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