

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME - GREETINGS:

EO 25-19: EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SPORTS, FITNESS, AND NUTRITION AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS TEST AND OTHER INITIATIVES IN ARKANSAS SCHOOLS TO MAKE ARKANSAS HEALTHY AGAIN.

WHEREAS: In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower created the first President's Council on Youth Fitness to be a "catalytic agent" for physical fitness and health among America's students;

WHEREAS: In 1961, President John F. Kennedy renamed the Council the "President's Council on Physical Fitness" and designed state administration centers to showcase model elementary and secondary schools that had successfully promoted physical fitness and health among students;

WHEREAS: In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson established the Presidential Physical Fitness Award to acknowledge exceptional fitness and physical achievement by participating students;

WHEREAS: In 1983, President Ronald W. Reagan expanded the scope of the Council while also taking multiple steps to encourage healthy living among Americans young and old;

WHEREAS: In 2012, President Barack H. Obama axed the Presidential Physical Fitness Test because he worried that every student would not perform equally and would therefore not be satisfied with their performance;

WHEREAS: In 2025, President Donald J. Trump restored the Presidential Fitness Test to promote physical strength and excellence among American students and renamed the Council to the "President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition";

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas applauds President Trump for taking action to promote the economic, academic, and social benefits of youth sports, fitness and nutrition, including restoring the Presidential Fitness test, which has inspired American students to engage in physical activity that strengthens their mental and physical well-being;

WHEREAS: Improving the mental and physical health of Arkansas youth is imperative to ensuring all Arkansas youth graduate from school ready to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed;

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WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas has taken steps to improve the mental health of Arkansas youth by prohibiting the use of cell phones in schools, providing universal breakfast at no cost to students, ensuring access to mental health services for Arkansas youth regardless of zip code, and by launching the Natural State Initiative to get kids off of screens and outdoors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order:

- (1) The Governor's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition is hereby established for the purpose of fulfilling the reporting requirements of this order and shall be composed of at least eleven (11) members, all appointed by the Governor of the State of Arkansas.
- (2) The Council shall:
 - (a) Provide a report to the Governor no later than December 31, 2026, recommending actions that may be taken by the State of Arkansas to:
 - i. Expand children's participation in youth sports, fitness, and active play;
 - ii. Promote the physical, mental, and civic benefits of daily movement, exercise, and good nutrition; and
 - iii. Engage various sectors, including public and private, civilian and military, in creating a statewide culture of strength, vitality, and excellence.
 - (b) Review and consider recommendations of the Child Health Advisory Committee, established by Arkansas Code 20-7-134, when preparing the Council's report.
 - (c) Advise the Governor on matters of healthy living through nutrition and physical activity.
 - (d) Dissolve upon the completion of its duties under this order.
- (3) The Department of Education shall:
 - (a) Ensure components and the benefits of the Presidential Fitness test are reflected in Physical Education and health standards for appropriate grade levels;

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- (b) Identify and develop professional development and resources for Physical Education teachers and coaches regarding the academic standards and promoting a culture of strength, vitality, and excellence;
 - (c) Develop recognition programs for students of all ability levels that demonstrate strength, vitality, and excellence through the Presidential Fitness test;
 - (d) Collect necessary data from Arkansas schools to produce an annual report identifying the schools and students participating in the Presidential Fitness program and completing the Presidential Fitness test;
 - (e) Develop a grant program, based on available funding, to support Arkansas schools in purchasing equipment and materials to improve students' strength, endurance, stamina, and overall fitness.
- (4) This Order shall take effect immediately upon signature.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed on this 27th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2025.


Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor



Attest



Cole Jester, Secretary of State