

### Help Protect Colorado Student Athletes and VOTE NO on HB26-1231

The Pre-Participation Physical Examination (PPE) is not a simple screening tool or musculoskeletal check. It is a comprehensive medical evaluation that includes a detailed history and systems-based physical exam, designed to determine medical eligibility for sport participation. The PPE assesses cardiovascular, neurologic, respiratory, dermatologic, genitourinary, infectious, mental health, and other general medical conditions that may impact safety.

Because it is a whole-patient medical risk assessment, the PPE should occur within the athlete's **medical home** under a **physician-led framework** that ensures continuity of care, appropriate follow-up, and responsible medical decision-making.



The PPE was developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine.

It is also endorsed by the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations.



The PPE is a comprehensive medical evaluation (history & system-based exam) to determine medical eligibility and address cardiovascular, neurologic, respiratory, dermatologic, genitourinary, infectious, mental health, and general medical issues and potentially life-threatening conditions prior to sport participation. Cardiac risk stratification is central to the exam, as preventing sudden cardiac death is one of its primary objectives.

When a provider signs a PPE, they are certifying that a student-athlete is medically eligible to participate and that no contraindicating medical conditions exist. That determination represents **medical diagnosis** and clearance.



For many secondary school athletes, the PPE may be the only comprehensive medical examination they receive from a physician each year.

Allowing physical therapists to serve as that entry point for medical clearance could unintentionally reduce access to **physician-led evaluation** and could delay decision making, add cost and affect the long-term health and wellness of this population.