

Tandem teaching in physical education - current experiences and possibilities for improvement

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Abstract

Tandem teaching in physical education is one of the major reforms in physical education in North Macedonia. It was implemented at the state level in 2019 in the elementary stage of primary education. Tandem teaching imposes a common – tandem work of generalist teachers and PE specialist teachers at Physical and health education classes with children from 1st to 5th grade in primary education. Implementation of tandem teaching was a result of numerous difficulties identified in primary PE as well as the urgent need for changes that should provide quality PE. The presented work gives an overview of the organization of tandem teaching and its role in providing quality PE in different segments of school life. The focus will be given to teachers as core pillars in providing quality teaching. We will present the roles and responsibilities of generalist teachers and PE teachers in tandem, what they bring into it, as well as feedback based on teachers' experiences. The focus will be given on the strength and weaknesses of tandem teaching identified by teachers involved in the tandem as well as the challenges that they are facing with. Following teachers' experiences from practice, we will point out aspects that should be improved, suggest possible solutions as well as possibilities how to extend tandem work in other segments of school life.

Key words: *tandem teaching, physical education, teachers, challenges, weaknesses, possibilities in PE teaching, changes.*