

Issue Date: December 16, 2024

Agency of Education Response to Public Feedback

SBE Student Performance Standards Committee Meeting

SHAPE America 2024 National Health Education Standards and 2024 National Physical Education Standards

- 1. Do the standards have recommendations for time and frequency? Do you anticipate any shift in the EQS requirements for time and frequency of PE instruction?**

SBE Rule Series 2000 is not currently open for revision. The information in the green sheet on time in physical education (PE) was provided as further context NOT to provide specific recommendations (it was previously shared with the state legislature). The standards do not provide a recommendation for time and frequency. [SHAPE America](#) recommends that schools provide 150 minutes of instructional physical education for elementary school children, and 225 minutes for middle and high school students per week for the entire school year.

- 2. VPA does not have any objection to the adoption of new rules in this area but wants to be clear that the new rules must apply to all students/schools including non-public schools (that should be a given but I'm ringing the bell wherever I can).**

The adoption of revised academic standards does not represent a change in rule. Public schools, approved and recognized independent schools, and in home study programs are required to provide a course of study that includes physical education and comprehensive health education ([16 V.S.A. 906](#)). Comprehensive health education, defined in [16 V.S.A. 131](#), is a “systematic and extensive elementary and secondary educational program” that covers topics such as safety, nutrition, and “Body structure and function, including the physical, psychosocial, and psychological basis of human development, sexuality, and reproduction.”

- 3. School systems that don't belong to SHAPE need to receive whatever support necessary from the AOE to successfully implement the new standards and any corresponding pedagogical changes. The resources HAVE to be available - no more letting locals figure things out for themselves without corresponding support including training and materials as necessary.**

The Agency of Education (AOE) agrees with this statement. A coordinated rollout plan is currently in development, but we would welcome further collaboration to ensure that each school and educator has equal access to the resources they need to implement these standards effectively.

- 4. (T)here are several places in the green sheets in which it is stated that the Agency will assist schools with training and other resources. The experience over the last several years, however, has been that the Agency lacks sufficient resources already to fulfill its obligations,**



so I worry that we are adding more work to an agency that hasn't been able to meet its existing obligations. For example,

- a. **The Agency of Education will provide guidance and training to the field on the implementation of the new standards, within its capacity, and provide these resources for free to educators.” [Emphasis added]**
- b. **“The Agency of Education will be developing model state level Proficiency-Based Learning Hierarchies for Health Education now that these standards are released.”**

The new standards were introduced to educators at the SHAPE VT conference held last Spring. This summer 78 educators (30 Health, 48 PE) completed a survey on the new indicators that they identified as essential to student success. The data from this survey were analyzed by the AOE and a core group of K-12 Health and PE educators from around the state (n=12). From this work, a Proficiency Based Graduation Requirement (PBGR) Hierarchy for Physical Education has already been developed (to be posted in January) based on the revised standards, and a Health PBGR Hierarchy based on the revised standards will be finalized in the next few months. Great Schools Partnership will be working with a group of PE educators on developing performance assessments based on the PBGR hierarchy this Spring. Work in the K-8 space is ongoing. The AOE has also been in constant communication with SHAPE America about coordinating resources/trainings for VT educators.

5. **The green sheet states that the National Health Education Standards have been revised, such that even if Vermont's standards don't change schools will be required to adopt the national standards. If true, and I have no reason to doubt this, adopting these new Vermont standards seems to make obvious sense, but so too should adding in resources for schools to access, as Sue mentions below.**

The health education standards have been revised to a smaller degree than the PE standards. SHAPE America will begin to align their resources for members to these 2024 health standards. Schools wouldn't adopt standards, but educators may have greater access to tools that are aligned to the new standards.

6. **When considering the standards, did the AOE or SBE committee on standards seek feedback from the Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health? The VSBA is a member of the Vermont Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health and has not been previously contacted regarding these proposed changes.**

The Agency of Education would welcome this feedback. Katy Culpo (member of the council) has provided feedback on the new standards. There has been a lot of institutional turnover in the past year and the AOE is currently conducting internal audits to identify where current AOE practices/programs may not align to state policy-including our responsibilities pertaining to convening legislatively mandated Councils.

7. **Whether there are conditions or considerations for implementing the revised standards, including resources and cost? Similarly, are there potential impacts for**

existing practice that the SBE should consider? Any necessary professional development or changes in curriculum delivery and/or resources may require financial resources and should be provided by the State of Vermont rather than required as an unfunded mandate. Another potential impact of changes in standards is the AOE's required model policy on Wellness and Comprehensive Health and related resources, including this Guide, which were just developed in 2023-24. Lastly, we urge the SBE committee on standards to require implementation of these standards in both public schools and approved independent schools. All students in Vermont deserve equitable access to and protection provided by these standards.

See above regarding trainings/non-public schools.

8. **To what extent does your organization feel that the standards are aligned/misaligned with the recently updated EQS? Given the AOE's required model policy and related resources on Wellness and Comprehensive Health (which closely aligns with health and PE standards), we suggest that the Advisory Council on Wellness and Comp Health conducts an analysis of proposed changes to standards and any possible required revisions to the EQS, which go into effect July 1, 2025, as the charge of the Advisory Council is to "examine and coordinate state health wellness policies and federal wellness policies to identify and, if possible, eliminate any redundancies."**

Health and PE standards are not mentioned in the LWP guide nor the model policy. The LWP model policy does not incorporate specific Education Quality Standards Rule 2000 language but cites the series more broadly. A review of alignment, however, between model policy and guide language and the new EQS would be beneficial, and the Agency would support that work. It should be noted that there are a number of resources that have been developed on Local Wellness Policy Development and Implementation aligned to the current model policy/guide (e.g., [Local Wellness Policy Development and Implementation: Public Reporting and Review](#)). A few of these resources do need to be edited to reflect possible new PE and health standards and the revisions made to the Education Quality Standards.