



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

January 7, 2016

Dear LEA and School Leaders-

The District of Columbia's [Health Education Standards](#) were last approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) in December 2007. Since then, much has changed in the education landscape as well as with health outcomes for our youth. To reflect this changing landscape and need, the Office of the State Superintendent's Division of Health & Wellness has drafted new health education standards with the support of various community stakeholders and other District agencies.¹

Attached you will find the latest draft of the health education standards. We are asking LEAs to field-test several priority standards (specifically, those that are highlighted in the draft) for the remainder of this school year and to generally review and provide feedback on the other standards. As you will see in the draft, much of our recent work has focused on creating greater alignment between the DC Health Education Standards, the Health and Physical Education Assessment (formerly known as [DC CAS Health](#)), and the [National Health Education Standards](#) (NHES). The draft standards are arranged by grade bands, allowing for greater flexibility in implementation, and are organized by reporting categories that are used in the Health and Physical Education Assessment. Additionally, we have aligned each standard with its corresponding NHES strand. Last, we have removed pre-kindergarten health education standards to allow for greater focus on the District of Columbia [Early Learning Standards](#) for our youngest learners.

The attached draft is robust. As such, we are looking to you, District educators, school leaders, and education practitioners, to tell us what standards need to be revised, added, or removed. Additionally, we welcome feedback on format and the age-appropriateness of the standards. Moreover, since many of the standards are focused on health promotion, we would like to work with you to identify ways to more equitably distribute the standards between the other NHES categories, thereby enhancing our students' decision-making, advocacy, and other skills.

While we seek feedback from those teaching health, insight from others, such as social workers, school nurses, and special education teachers, would be extremely valuable. Please share broadly within your schools. Our goal is to provide an updated version that incorporates LEA feedback forward to the SBOE in April 2016 for a final vote that will approve them formally for the 2016-2017 school year. You can email your feedback to

¹ The [physical education \(PE\) standards](#) were not a part of this process and the current PE standards will remain in effect.

osse.schoolhealth@dc.gov or attend one of the following in-person sessions at 810 First Street, NE, 3rd Floor Grand Hall, Washington, DC 20002:

- January 15, 2016 from 4-6pm
- February 4, 2016 from 4-6pm
- March 3, 2016 from 4-6pm

To ensure a timely release of the Health and Physical Education Assessment, the comment period for this draft will close March 18, 2016. OSSE will submit a final version to the SBOE in late April for final approval.

The highlighted standards that we are asking LEAs to field test align to the Health and Physical Education Assessment that will be released in March 2016 to LEAs who are opting into the state-generated assessment (more detail [here](#)). As required in the [Healthy Schools Act](#), District students are tested annually in 5th grade, 8th grade, and high school (during the year that a health class is taken) on their health and physical education knowledge. The Health and Physical Education Assessment was put on hold for the 2014-2015 school year to accommodate the transition to the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers](#) (PARCC). OSSE has transitioned from a secure standardized Health and Physical Education Assessment to a new model designed to leverage instructional plans your LEA already has in place or to offer the option of choosing a state-level test that is created and scored by the OSSE. To provide maximum flexibility, the testing window of the exam will be March 28 through May 20, 2016. LEAs will be responsible for administering the test during this time frame, and providing OSSE with the ungraded exam results no later than June 3, 2016. Those LEAs who choose to adopt the OSSE generated assessment must notify OSSE.assessment@dc.gov by February 1, 2016. These LEAs do not need to complete the previously distributed template and their decision will automatically be approved.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting the academic and health outcomes of our District youth.

Best,



Donna Anthony
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Health & Wellness Division
Office of the State Superintendent of Education