
Physical Education Standards

The Background:

In June of 2015, a committee was formed to revise the Tennessee physical education standards, which have not been revised since 2009. This committee was made up of current K-12 physical education teachers, coordinated school health coordinators, and higher education faculty. The committee convened and compiled the first draft of the physical education standards. The committee presented the draft standards at the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance conference in October of 2015 where two round table sessions were held to gather feedback. Edits and revisions were made to the draft standards based on that feedback. In November of 2015, the physical education standards were posted to the Tennessee State Board of Education website for public feedback. The site was open for 3 months and over 200 public comments were received. Final edits and revisions were made to the standards based on those comments.

The physical education standards proposed in this item represent the skill, knowledge, or behavior outcome of the student at the completion of a grade. Creating developmentally appropriate learning experiences that meet the standard is the responsibility of the physical education teacher and in alignment with school district resources. Each standard is observable and measurable, and therefore can be assessed.

In the current physical education standards, the standard is presented as a very broad statement. For example, a current standard would be Movement Forms/Motor Skills and Movement Patterns. In the revised standards, they are very specific to a skill. For example, the component is Motor Skills, the subcomponent is Locomotor, and the standard is the specific skill, e.g. Hop (one foot), gallop, slide, and skip. The standards are specific to each grade level and are specific to certain skills, which will drive quality instruction and assist administrators in evaluation of their physical education teachers.

The Tennessee Physical Education Standards document is divided into three (3) grade bands: Grades K-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12. Each grade level (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) in the proposed standards is comprised of five (5) components, grouping similar skills, knowledge, or behaviors. Under each component is the subcomponent which is a more refined grouping of similar skills, knowledge, or behaviors. The standard is the described skill, knowledge or behavior as listed within the subcomponent and grade level. Specific to the 9-12 physical education standards there is a component extension, which is an idea to further challenge students in a particular subcomponent.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.