

Over the last decade, the NHES became an accepted reference on health education, providing a framework for the adoption of standards by most states. A review process begun in 2004 resulted in revisions to the NHES that acknowledged the impact and strength of the original document and took into account more than 10 years of use nationwide. The 2nd edition *National Health Education Standards—Achieving Excellence* promises to reinforce the positive growth of health education and to challenge schools and communities to continue efforts toward excellence in health education.

Standards and Performance Indicators

The NHES are written expectations for what students should know and be able to do by grades 2, 5, 8, and 12 to promote personal, family, and community health. The standards provide a framework for curriculum development and selection, instruction, and student assessment in health education.

Standard 1 Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.

Standard 2 Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

Standard 3 Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information, products, and services to enhance health.

Standard 4 Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Standard 5 Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Standard 6 Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Standard 7 Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

Standard 8 Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

Standard 1

Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.

Rationale: The acquisition of basic health concepts and functional health knowledge provides a foundation for promoting health-enhancing behaviors among youth. This standard includes essential concepts that are based on established health behavior theories and models. Concepts that focus on both health promotion and risk reduction are included in the performance indicators.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 1.2.1 Identify that healthy behaviors impact personal health.
- 1.2.2 Recognize that there are multiple dimensions of health.
- 1.2.3 Describe ways to prevent communicable diseases.
- 1.2.4 List ways to prevent common childhood injuries.
- 1.2.5 Describe why it is important to seek health care.

Grades 3-5

- 1.5.1 Describe the relationship between healthy behaviors and personal health.
- 1.5.2 Identify examples of emotional, intellectual, physical, and social health.
- 1.5.3 Describe ways in which safe and healthy school and community environments can promote personal health.
- 1.5.4 Describe ways to prevent common childhood injuries and health problems.
- 1.5.5 Describe when it is important to seek health care.

Grades 6-8

- 1.8.1 Analyze the relationship between healthy behaviors and personal health.
- 1.8.2 Describe the interrelationships of emotional, intellectual, physical, and social health in adolescence.
- 1.8.3 Analyze how the environment affects personal health.
- 1.8.4 Describe how family history can affect personal health.
- 1.8.5 Describe ways to reduce or prevent injuries and other adolescent health problems.
- 1.8.6 Explain how appropriate health care can promote personal health.
- 1.8.7 Describe the benefits of and barriers to practicing healthy behaviors.
- 1.8.8 Examine the likelihood of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- 1.8.9 Examine the potential seriousness of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.

Grades 9-12

- 1.12.1 Predict how healthy behaviors can affect health status.

- 1.12.2 Describe the interrelationships of emotional, intellectual, physical, and social health.
- 1.12.3 Analyze how environment and personal health are interrelated.
- 1.12.4 Analyze how genetics and family history can impact personal health.
- 1.12.5 Propose ways to reduce or prevent injuries and health problems.
- 1.12.6 Analyze the relationship between access to health care and health status.
- 1.12.7 Compare and contrast the benefits of and barriers to practicing a variety of healthy behaviors.
- 1.12.8 Analyze personal susceptibility to injury, illness, or death if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- 1.12.9 Analyze the potential severity of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.

* The performance indicators articulate specifically what students should *know or be able to do* in support of each standard by the conclusion of each of the following grade spans: Pre-K–Grade 2; Grade 3–Grade 5; Grade 6–Grade 8; and Grade 9–Grade 12. The performance indicators serve as a blueprint for organizing student assessment.

Standard 2

Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

Rationale: Health is affected by a variety of positive and negative influences within society. This standard focuses on identifying and understanding the diverse internal and external factors that influence health practices and behaviors among youth, including personal values, beliefs, and perceived norms.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 2.2.1 Identify how the family influences personal health practices and behaviors.
- 2.2.2 Identify what the school can do to support personal health practices and behaviors.
- 2.2.3 Describe how the media can influence health behaviors.

Grades 3-5

- 2.5.1 Describe how family influences personal health practices and behaviors.
- 2.5.2 Identify the influence of culture on health practices and behaviors.
- 2.5.3 Identify how peers can influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors
- 2.5.4 Describe how the school and community can support personal health practices and behaviors.
- 2.5.5 Explain how media influences thoughts, feelings, and health behaviors.
- 2.5.6 Describe ways that technology can influence personal health.

Grades 6-8

- 2.8.1 Examine how the family influences the health of adolescents.
- 2.8.2 Describe the influence of culture on health beliefs, practices, and behaviors.
- 2.8.3 Describe how peers influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.8.4 Analyze how the school and community can affect personal health practices and behaviors.
- 2.8.5 Analyze how messages from media influence health behaviors.
- 2.8.6 Analyze the influence of technology on personal and family health.
- 2.8.7 Explain how the perceptions of norms influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.8.8 Explain the influence of personal values and beliefs on individual health practices and behaviors.
- 2.8.9 Describe how some health risk behaviors can influence the likelihood of engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.8.10 Explain how school and public health policies can influence health promotion and disease prevention.

Grades 9-12

- 2.12.1 Analyze how the family influences the health of individuals.
- 2.12.2 Analyze how the culture supports and challenges health beliefs, practices, and behaviors.

- 2.12.3 Analyze how peers influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.12.4 Evaluate how the school and community can affect personal health practice and behaviors.
- 2.12.5 Evaluate the effect of media on personal and family health.
- 2.12.6 Evaluate the impact of technology on personal, family, and community health.
- 2.12.7 Analyze how the perceptions of norms influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.12.8 Analyze the influence of personal values and beliefs on individual health practices and behaviors.
- 2.12.9 Analyze how some health risk behaviors can influence the likelihood of engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.12.10 Analyze how public health policies and government regulations can influence health promotion and disease prevention.

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Standard 3

Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information, products, and services to enhance health.

Rationale: Access to valid health information and health-promoting products and services is critical in the prevention, early detection, and treatment of health problems. This standard focuses on how to identify and access valid health resources and to reject unproven sources. Application of the skills of analysis, comparison, and evaluation of health resources empowers students to achieve health literacy.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 3.2.1 Identify trusted adults and professionals who can help promote health.
- 3.2.2 Identify ways to locate school and community health helpers.

Grades 3-5

- 3.5.1 Identify characteristics of valid health information, products, and services.
- 3.5.2 Locate resources from home, school, and community that provide valid health information.

Grades 6-8

- 3.8.1 Analyze the validity of health information, products, and services.
- 3.8.2 Access valid health information from home, school, and community.
- 3.8.3 Determine the accessibility of products that enhance health.
- 3.8.4 Describe situations that may require professional health services.
- 3.8.5 Locate valid and reliable health products and services.

Grades 9-12

- 3.12.1 Evaluate the validity of health information, products, and services.
- 3.12.2 Use resources from home, school, and community that provide valid health information.
- 3.12.3 Determine the accessibility of products and services that enhance health.
- 3.12.4 Determine when professional health services may be required.
- 3.12.5 Access valid and reliable health products and services.

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Standard 4

Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Rationale: Effective communication enhances personal, family, and community health. This standard focuses on how responsible individuals use verbal and non-verbal skills to develop and maintain healthy personal relationships. The ability to organize and to convey information and feelings is the basis for strengthening interpersonal interactions and reducing or avoiding conflict.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 4.2.1 Demonstrate healthy ways to express needs, wants, and feelings.
- 4.2.2 Demonstrate listening skills to enhance health.
- 4.2.3 Demonstrate ways to respond in an unwanted, threatening, or dangerous situation.
- 4.2.4 Demonstrate ways to tell a trusted adult if threatened or harmed.

Grades 3-5

- 4.5.1 Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills to enhance health.
- 4.5.2 Demonstrate refusal skills that avoid or reduce health risks.
- 4.5.3 Demonstrate nonviolent strategies to manage or resolve conflict.
- 4.5.4 Demonstrate how to ask for assistance to enhance personal health.

Grades 6-8

- 4.8.1 Apply effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills to enhance health.
- 4.8.2 Demonstrate refusal and negotiation skills that avoid or reduce health risks.
- 4.8.3 Demonstrate effective conflict management or resolution strategies.
- 4.8.4 Demonstrate how to ask for assistance to enhance the health of self and others.

Grades 9-12

- 4.12.1 Use skills for communicating effectively with family, peers, and others to enhance health.
- 4.12.2 Demonstrate refusal, negotiation, and collaboration skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
- 4.12.3 Demonstrate strategies to prevent, manage, or resolve interpersonal conflicts without harming self or others.
- 4.12.4 Demonstrate how to ask for and offer assistance to enhance the health of self and others.

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Standard 5

Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Rationale: Decision-making skills are needed to identify, implement, and sustain health-enhancing behaviors. This standard includes the essential steps that are needed to make healthy decisions as prescribed in the performance indicators. When applied to health issues, the decision-making process enables individuals to collaborate with others to improve their quality of life.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 5.2.1 Identify situations when a health-related decision is needed.
- 5.2.2 Differentiate between situations when a health-related decision can be made individually or when assistance is needed.

Grades 3-5

- 5.5.1 Identify health-related situations that might require a thoughtful decision.
- 5.5.2 Analyze when assistance is needed in making a health-related decision.
- 5.5.3 List healthy options to health-related issues or problems.
- 5.5.4 Predict the potential outcomes of each option when making a health-related decision.
- 5.5.5 Choose a healthy option when making a decision.
- 5.5.6 Describe the outcomes of a health-related decision.

Grades 6-8

- 5.8.1 Identify circumstances that can help or hinder healthy decision making.
- 5.8.2 Determine when health-related situations require the application of a thoughtful decision-making process.
- 5.8.3 Distinguish when individual or collaborative decision making is appropriate.
- 5.8.4 Distinguish between healthy and unhealthy alternatives to health-related issues or problems.
- 5.8.5 Predict the potential short-term impact of each alternative on self and others.
- 5.8.6 Choose healthy alternatives over unhealthy alternatives when making a decision.
- 5.8.7 Analyze the outcomes of a health-related decision.

Grades 9-12

- 5.12.1 Examine barriers that can hinder healthy decision making.
- 5.12.2 Determine the value of applying a thoughtful decision-making process in health-related situations.
- 5.12.3 Justify when individual or collaborative decision making is appropriate.
- 5.12.4 Generate alternatives to health-related issues or problems.
- 5.12.5 Predict the potential short-term and long-term impact of each alternative on self and others.

5.12.6 Defend the healthy choice when making decisions.

5.12.7 Evaluate the effectiveness of health-related decisions.

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Standard 6

Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Rationale: Goal-setting skills are essential to help students identify, adopt, and maintain healthy behaviors. This standard includes the critical steps that are needed to achieve both short-term and long-term health goals. These skills make it possible for individuals to have aspirations and plans for the future.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 6.2.1 Identify a short-term personal health goal and take action toward achieving the goal.
- 6.2.2 Identify who can help when assistance is needed to achieve a personal health goal.

Grades 3-5

- 6.5.1 Set a personal health goal and track progress toward its achievement.
- 6.5.2 Identify resources to assist in achieving a personal health goal.

Grades 6-8

- 6.8.1 Assess personal health practices.
- 6.8.2 Develop a goal to adopt, maintain, or improve a personal health practice.
- 6.8.3 Apply strategies and skills needed to attain a personal health goal.
- 6.8.4 Describe how personal health goals can vary with changing abilities, priorities, and responsibilities.

Grades 9-12

- 6.12.1 Assess personal health practices and overall health status.
- 6.12.2 Develop a plan to attain a personal health goal that addresses strengths, needs, and risks.
- 6.12.3 Implement strategies and monitor progress in achieving a personal health goal.
- 6.12.4 Formulate an effective long-term personal health plan.

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Standard 7

Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

Rationale: Research confirms that practicing health-enhancing behaviors can contribute to a positive quality of life. In addition, many diseases and injuries can be prevented by reducing harmful and risk-taking behaviors. This standard promotes the acceptance of personal responsibility for health and encourages the practice of healthy behaviors.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 7.2.1 Demonstrate healthy practices and behaviors to maintain or improve personal health.
- 7.2.2 Demonstrate behaviors that avoid or reduce health risks.

Grades 3-5

- 7.5.1 Identify responsible personal health behaviors.
- 7.5.2 Demonstrate a variety of healthy practices and behaviors to maintain or improve personal health.
- 7.5.3 Demonstrate a variety of behaviors to avoid or reduce health risks.

Grades 6-8

- 7.8.1 Explain the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health behaviors.
- 7.8.2 Demonstrate healthy practices and behaviors that will maintain or improve the health of self and others.
- 7.8.3 Demonstrate behaviors to avoid or reduce health risks to self and others.

Grades 9-12

- 7.12.1 Analyze the role of individual responsibility for enhancing health.
- 7.12.2 Demonstrate a variety of healthy practices and behaviors that will maintain or improve the health of self and others.
- 7.12.3 Demonstrate a variety of behaviors to avoid or reduce health risks to self and others.

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Standard 8

Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

Rationale: Advocacy skills help students promote healthy norms and healthy behaviors. This standard helps students develop important skills to target their health-enhancing messages and to encourage others to adopt healthy behaviors.

Performance Indicators*

Pre-K-Grade 2

- 8.2.1 Make requests to promote personal health.
- 8.2.2 Encourage peers to make positive health choices.

Grades 3-5

- 8.5.1 Express opinions and give accurate information about health issues.
- 8.5.2 Encourage others to make positive health choices.

Grades 6-8

- 8.8.1 State a health-enhancing position on a topic and support it with accurate information.
- 8.8.2 Demonstrate how to influence and support others to make positive health choices.
- 8.8.3 Work cooperatively to advocate for healthy individuals, families, and schools.
- 8.8.4 Identify ways in which health messages and communication techniques can be altered for different audiences.

Grades 9-12

- 8.12.1 Utilize accurate peer and societal norms to formulate a health-enhancing message.
- 8.12.2 Demonstrate how to influence and support others to make positive health choices.
- 8.12.3 Work cooperatively as an advocate for improving personal, family, and community health.
- 8.12.4 Adapt health messages and communication techniques to a specific target audience.

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