

FAQ for you and your School Board on the Proposed Health Standards

April 2021

Q: What are "Content Area Standards"?

- A: Content area standards reflect the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn in a given content area. Because these standards create a framework for teaching and learning, they articulate a trajectory for knowledge acquisition across all grade levels so student learning builds on prior knowledge, becoming more in-depth over time. By setting clear benchmarks for learning, content area standards provide guidance to teachers as they develop learning experiences. Currently, Rule 10 (004.01A & 004.01C) requires school districts to have written guides, frameworks, or standards for all content areas in elementary, middle, and high school instructional programs.

Q: What are the proposed health standards and how can I see them?

- A: The proposed standards are posted on the Health Education Standards Development Webpage: <https://www.education.ne.gov/healthed/health-education-standards-development/>
 - The direct link to the standards is located here: <https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Nebraska-Health-Education-Standards-DRAFT-1-Public-Input-with-colors.pdf>

Q: Because the draft standards being discussed are health standards, it is up to local school boards to adopt or not?

- A: Yes, local school boards will determine if they adopt the Nebraska Health Education Standards.
 - More specifically, schools in Nebraska are required to include health education within their instructional programs for elementary, middle, and high schools. The instructional programs are to have written guides, frameworks, or standards. Unlike reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, public school districts and accredited nonpublic school systems are not required by law to adopt the state Nebraska Health Education Standards but are required to have standards in place for health education. The decision to utilize the Nebraska Health Education Standards, in whole or part, is determined by each local school district or school system.

Q: Who wrote these proposed standards?

- A: Historically, the NDE has used Nebraska educators to write and/or revise content area standards. For Health Education, applications were made available to Physical Education, Health Education, and Family and Consumer Science teachers and administrators. The writing team was selected from the submitted applications. The Nebraska educators participating in the writing team is posted here: <https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Nebraska-Health-Education-Standards-Draft-1-Information.pdf>

Q: What is the role of the State Board of Education in this process?

- A: Nebraska Revised Statute 79-760.01 requires the Nebraska State Board of Education to “adopt measurable academic content standards for at least the grade levels required for statewide assessment.” Those standards shall cover the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and the State Board of Education shall develop a plan to review and update standards for those subject areas every seven years.

- In addition to the content area standards required by statute, the Nebraska Department of Education has developed content area standards for fine arts, physical education, health education, and world languages, as well as course-based standards for Career and Technical Education. Although not required by law, these content area standards provide a framework for quality teaching and learning for all content areas.
- An overview of the process to develop and/or revise content area standards is included in the [NDE's Content Area Standards Reference Guide](#).

Q: What is the process/timeline for standard adoption?

- A: The State Board will continue to weigh public input. They took input at their April meeting and may continue to get input in subsequent months. The Board will take final action on the draft standards likely in the Fall of 2021.

Q: How can the public weigh in on the proposed standards?

- A: Comments/input on the Nebraska Health Education standards can be provided via:
 - Email: nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov
 - US Mail:
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
 - Public Input Survey: https://nde.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8dl1y2pRSfXIG8R