

Summary of Changes to Learning Standards for Physical Education

Overview

The standards have been revised to clarify standards language, update content, intentionally include opportunities for equity and inclusion, and grade-band organization. Prioritized standards have been identified to reflect the universal learning that should be the foundation for every learner in the K–12 system. Based on the feedback received from the initial educator survey in spring 2024 the draft Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for Physical Education are based on the updated 2024 National SHAPE standards for physical education.

The standards clarify the language used by shifting from “Grade Level Outcomes” to “Standards” and from “Practices” to “Domains”. This brings the standards into alignment with consistent terminology used in revisions of other content areas. Combining grade levels into two bands in elementary and one middle school grade band was also requested by educators in the initial survey. This grade-band approach allows for the progression of skills and concepts that support growth and development at each grade range. Updates to the content includes:

- Opportunities for equity and inclusion for students of all ability levels.
- Supporting the development of social emotional learning skills.
- Standards that can be modified to fit local contexts and communities.

These updates to the physical education standards will provide educators opportunities to design high-quality instructional experiences and align with health and other content areas.

