

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Project:

Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids!: Development of statewide physical education standards

Type:

- School physical education
- Information/event for parents/guardians
- Professional development
- Policy

Setting:

- School-based
- Community-based

Partners:

- State health department
- State AAHPERD association
- Local parks/recreation department

Goals:

- To coordinate statewide planning and assessment of physical education programs.
- To provide technical assistance for statewide implementation of physical education content standards.
- To increase community, school, and physical education and health education teacher awareness of the Rhode Island physical education content standards guide and other physical activity and physical education initiatives.
- To increase capacity of schools and communities to provide physical education/physical activity opportunities for 9- to 13-year-olds.
- To increase support among state legislators for physical activity and physical education program policies.

Description:

In an ongoing project titled Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids!, the Rhode Island departments of education and health collaborated with the Rhode Island Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to complete development of statewide physical education standards. The project also conducted public education through two newsletters promoting physical activity.

Successes:

- The Rhode Island Physical Education Framework, a statewide standards-based curriculum-development guide, was created and is under review. Statewide standards for physical education were drafted. A pilot training for teachers was also offered.



- A standards and assessments workshop was conducted for members of the physical education Standards Development Committee. This group will assist in teacher training, participate in pilot training, and provide technical assistance.
- The School Health Chronicle promoted the physical activity/physical education theme.
- Two newsletters were developed and disseminated, one targeting professionals and one promoting advocacy.

Challenges:

- The biggest challenge is sustaining efforts after funding ends.
- The Standards Development Committee needed training in how to develop a standards-based curriculum.
- A \$300 million state deficit necessitates arguing to keep physical education in the school day rather than requesting more funds.
- Department of Health policy severely limited mailing of the advocacy newsletter to state legislators. Instead it was sent to education policy-makers.
- Working with RIAHPERD poses opportunities and challenges, especially activating volunteers who are unfamiliar with advocacy strategies.

Strategies for sustainability:

- A template for two newsletters was created.
- Once revisions are complete, the physical education framework will be distributed to every school.
- The agency will partner with RIAHPERD to provide professional development.
- The Rhode Island physical education survey instrument was completed.
- A plan is under development to enhance the Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids! website to provide professional development and resources.

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