

New Physical Education Standards

By Valerie Fischer, Director of Adult Education; Director of Safe & Healthy Schools

North Dakota Physical Education Standards are now ready for implementation.

The Physical Education standards were reviewed and revised by a committee of ND experts which included representatives from all grade levels and areas of the state, urban and rural areas, special education, and the university system. A draft of the standards was prepared and opened for public comment in mid-October 2014 and again March-April 2015. In all, the committee reviewed 175 comments. Public comments were used to prepare a final draft submitted to Superintendent Baesler, who approved the standards this summer. The ND PE Standards can be found at <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/Administrators/assessment/unit/>.

Professional Development Requirements

Senate Bill (SB) 2209 now requires a minimum of two hours of Youth Suicide prevention training be given to middle and high school instructional staff, teachers, and administrators every year.

SB 2048, Section 2 requires school districts provide eight hours of youth mental health training to all elementary, middle, and high school teachers and administrators every two years. Ancillary staff and support staff are encouraged to participate. Training topics must include:

- a. Understanding of the prevalence and impact of youth mental health disorders on family structure, education, juvenile services, law enforcement, and health care and treatment providers;
- b. Knowledge of mental health symptoms, social stigmas, risks, and protective factors; and
- c. Awareness of referral sources and strategies for appropriate interventions.

Districts are required to report training dates, participants, and outcomes using the NDDPI STARS System. Fact Sheets related to keeping our students and schools safe and healthy, including guidance on SB 2209 and SB 2048 can be found at <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/Administrators/SafeHealthy/FactSheets/>. Please direct questions to Gail Schauer at gschauer@nd.gov or (701) 328-2265.