

Please read the following message from the Gothenburg Public Schools (GPS) Board of Directors regarding the recently proposed health standards. Also note that the GPS board won't respond to comments/questions on Facebook or other social media channels, but has information at the end of this post with options for communicating questions.

Overview of NDE and the State School Board Roles in Setting School Standards

- The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), governed by the Nebraska State School Board is required by Nebraska Revised Statute 79-70.01 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 chosen to develop content area standards for fine arts, physical education, health education, and world languages, as well as course-based standards for career and technical education.

Brief History and Current State of Nebraska’s Proposed Health Standards

- Earlier this year, NDE (again, governed by the Nebraska State School Board, not your local school board) published a first draft for proposed Nebraska Health Standards. NDE conducted a survey to submit feedback during the review of draft #1.
- GPS school board members, like many concerned citizens in our community and state, have become engaged in this feedback opportunity by submitting surveys to NDE and by personally reaching out to the Nebraska State School Board.
- **During the April State School Board meeting, the State Board rejected draft #1 and asked that draft #2 be created.** This rejection was largely a result of the overwhelming amount of feedback submitted to the State Board. Thank you for being engaged in this process. The draft process can and likely will go through multiple revisions with the intent to receive and implement public input into each new draft revision.
- According to the NDE, the online survey closed for draft #1 (again, draft #1 was rejected). Input can still be emailed to nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov.
- A second Public Input Survey will be available when Draft #2 of the standards is released later this summer. The GPS Board urges everyone to review the next draft and provide feedback via the new survey or by contacting the State School Board to ensure your input is heard at the state level (same process as draft #1).

- Again, NDE, governed by the State School board will be considering draft #2 of the standards as they did with draft #1. For more information, visit the NDE website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/healthed/health-education-standards-development/>

What this Means to Gothenburg Public Schools

- Unlike reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, Nebraska public school districts such as Gothenburg Public Schools are NOT required by law to adopt the state Nebraska Health Education Standards. The decision to utilize the Nebraska Health Education Standards, in whole or part, will be determined by each local school district.
- Currently there is an abundance of speculation about how the NDE's health standards will evolve. GPS's board encourages you to familiarize yourself with the process. Please follow the ongoing evaluation of the Nebraska State Health Standards. Take any and all opportunity to provide feedback to NDE.
- Your voice matters. If and when the time comes to move forward with health standards for our local school district, it's important that any product the State School Board produces include input from our local community. This will provide the best base of standards our local school board could look at when deciding what, if any, standards might work for Gothenburg.
- In the event the State School Board adopts Health Standards, the Gothenburg Public School district will begin a comprehensive process of standard and curriculum adoption that includes feedback from our parents, patrons and community members.

How to Provide Input

- Submit feedback to the NDE email address: nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov.
- Watch for Draft #2 to be released (along with an input survey) by following the NDE website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/healthed/health-education-standards-development/>
- Reach out to the State School Board: <https://www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/>
- Still unsure of this process and want to talk to your GPS board? We'd love to help answer questions. Please email your questions to us:
 - Nate Wyatt, President: nathanmwyatt@yahoo.com
 - Becky Jobman, Vice President: rebecca.jobman@gmail.com
 - Kyle Fornoff, Secretary: fornoff.kyle@gmail.com
 - Devin Brundage: devinbrundage@gmail.com
 - Jon Hudson: jon@seedandchemical.com
 - Kelly Terrell: terrellkely@gmail.com