

Linking Health & Learning Newsletter

The Newsletter for Vermont's Health and Physical Educators and Supporters

April-May 2018

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- Physical Education Assessment Update
- Seven Days Recognizes the Richmond Elementary PE Program
- Vermont's SHAPE America Award Winner
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Events, Announcements and Resources



Physical Education Assessment News

On April 24, 2018 the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) replaced the PE Assessment FAQ with the [Vermont Physical Education Assessment: Policy and Guidelines](#). Please note recent policy changes considering who will administer the Vermont PE Assessment to publicly funded students attending independent schools. Independent schools are now able to assess publicly funded students onsite with their staff, and no longer need to collaborate with public schools to provide access to this assessment for their students.

The 2018 pilot of the Vermont PE Assessment is almost here! All public and independent schools will be administering FitnessGram to all Vermont publically funded students May 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018. Students in 4th and 7th grade and one locally identified high school grade level, 9th or 10th grade, must complete the assessment during this test window. Data measuring aerobic capacity, upper body and abdominal muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility will be collected and reported in FitnessGram. The protocols a school uses to collect this data are locally determined considering the facilities and equipment the school has available.

All physical education assessment test administrators must complete the Vermont Physical Education Assessment [certification process](#). The Vermont Physical Education process requires physical educators to complete a four-part training series as well as *FitnessGram 101*, which includes a test that must be passed with an 80% or better.

The four-part training takes place locally led by trained physical educators, or by viewing the following webinars:

- [Part I: Introduction to the Vermont PE Assessment](#)
- [Part II: PE Assessment Protocol Training](#)
- [Part III: PE Assessment Companion Training \(Brockport Fitness Test\)](#)
- [Part IV: FitnessGram Online Software](#)
- [Part V: FitnessGram 101](#)

SU/SD/IS Test Administrators are responsible for verifying completion of the certification process.

Seven Days Recognizes the Richmond Elementary PE Program

Seven Days published the article [Game Changer: Richmond Elementary PE Program Focuses on Accessibility, Lifelong Fitness and Fun](#), that highlights Richmond Elementary School's unique physical education program and the work of Brian Godfrey. With strong support from the community, students in this K-Grade 4 School have amazing and unique opportunities to learn how to ski, snowboard, bicycle, and perform circus arts. Enjoy reading about this amazing program! Go "Mr. G"!

Vermont SHAPE America Award Winner

On March 22, 2018 the Professional Excellence Awards were presented at the SHAPE America Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Lyn Porter of Williston Schools was awarded the Margie R. Hanson Elementary Physical Education Distinguished Service Award for her service and educational contributions to physical education in the early childhood or elementary levels. Lyn is a tireless passionate physical educator who has been teaching at Williston Schools for 27 years. She is currently the Past-President of SHAPE Eastern and in 2017 was recognized by SHAPE Vermont for hosting the Jump Rope for Heart Outstanding Event. Congratulations Lyn!

The New Agency of Education Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention Coordinator

The Vermont Agency of Education would like to introduce Beth Keister as the new Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention Coordinator. Beth has roots in prevention work from her coalition work as a youth growing up in Cabot, VT. She went on to study education and English and later became a licensed clinical social worker. For many years she worked directly with adults of all ages who experienced co-occurring disorders and other challenges, and this made her passionate about holistic health promotion and addiction recovery. After spending the last two years as a stay-at-home Mom while also doing communications work for Prevention Works! VT and Prevent Child Abuse, she looks forward to supporting schools in providing meaningful and comprehensive substance use prevention. Beth can be reached at beth.keister@vermont.gov.

Formation of the Vermont Council of Health and Physical Education

On March 28, 2018, the Vermont Council of Health and Physical Education (VCHPE) was formed and 26 educators gathered to learn SHAPE America and AOE updates, to talk about curriculum development, current teaching experiences, and the integration of transferable skills, health skills, and physical education standards in a proficiency-based learning system. Attendees shared successes and challenges of shifting to a proficiency-based learning system. Successes included having a good understanding of what proficiency learning is, the addition of more instructional time to meet proficiencies, having the opportunity to collaborate as a K-12 team, and having a common curriculum to follow. Challenges included having the time to meet as K-12 teams to plan curriculum, student buy-in considering proficiency-based health and PE instruction, support from school leaders, and transitioning from reporting using letter grades to proficiencies.

Educators also had the opportunity to discuss how interdisciplinary units could be used to streamline teaching as well as share samples of their work. VCHPE will meet three times in the 2018 – 2019 school year. The professional learning topics we will focus on for the year will be assessment and reporting. Educators will also have the opportunity to identify a problem of practice, interact with peers to problem-solve, create an impact plan to resolve the problem, and carry out the plan. The first meeting for the 2018–2019 school year will take place in August, 2018, the date, place and time TBD. Stay tuned!

Licensing Endorsement Level Change - Public Comment Period

At the February 14, 2018 Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) meeting, the Board began the process to change the instructional level on the Art and Music endorsements. The Board acted to change the instructional levels from grades PK-6, 7-12, or PK-12 to PK-8, 5-12, or PK-12. As a result, Board members want to hear from stakeholders in Vermont from the physical education community before it decides to consider making the same change to the Physical Education endorsement. Stakeholders may provide comments to the VSBPE through a [public comment survey](#). Questions may be directed to Terry Reilly at terry.reilly@vermont.gov or (802) 479-1315.

Resources:

- [Weekly Field Memo \(WFM\)](#): The field memo is the weekly communication from the Vermont AOE to the education community. You may subscribe, unsubscribe, and update your email address for the [WFM online](#).
- April 2018 [ASHA Newsletter](#): The mission of the American School Health Association (ASHA) is to transform all schools into places where every student learns and thrives.
- [Healthylessons.org](#): This website contains dozens of FREE elementary health related lesson plans as well as fun, online games. It is intended to help both health educators and busy classroom teachers present excellent health lessons to their students. *All lessons correlate to the National Health Education Standards.* Parents will also find a section of relevant health information.
- Free [Self-Paced courses](#) on Vermont AOE website.
 - Developing and Applying Proficiencies in a Proficiency-Based, Personalized System
 - Practices in Personalized, Proficiency-Based Learning
- [Proficiency-Based Learning](#) webpage
- [AOE Physical Education webpage](#)
- [AOE Health Education webpage](#)
- [FitnessGram Teacher Resource Center](#)

Announcements & Professional Learning Opportunities

- [2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#): Results are set to be published June 14, 2018.
- VT-HEC [Summer Workshops](#)
- The Governor's Institute for [Health and Medicine](#), July 22 – 28, 2018. St. Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont.
- SHAPE Vermont 2018: October 18 & 19, 2018. Killington Grand, Killington, Vermont. SHAPE Vermont is soliciting [conference proposals](#) until June 1, 2018.
- [Coaching Leadership: Issues Facing Today's Student Athlete](#), Shawn Hair, June 25, 2018 – August 12, 2018 (7 weeks, 45 contact hours), Castleton State University Continuing Education, online.
- [Adapted Physical Education for Educators](#), Andy Weinberg, July 5, 2018 to August 10, 2018. In person at Castleton University on July 5, 2018 and August 10, 2018 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm with online and independent work in between, Castleton University, Castleton, VT and online.
- [Designing Personal & Proficiency-based Learning Experiences](#), Gabrielle Lumbrá, Asynchronous meetings online June 25, 2018 to August 19, 2018, online.
- [Designing Proficiency-Based Assessments](#), Gabrielle Lumbrá, June 25, 2018 to August 19, 2018, online.
- [Journeying Toward Proficiency and Personalization](#), Adam Rosenberg, This course is built around attendance at the "Vermont's Journey Toward Proficiency and Personalization". A two-day conference at Castleton University, July 18 & 19, 2018 from 8 am - 3 pm. Course participants will also meet on July 16, 17 & 20, 2018, 8 am - 3 pm at the Rutland Central Supervisory Union Conference Room, Rutland, VT.
- [Putting Proficiency-Based Learning into Action](#), Andrew Jones, Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 9 am - 2 pm & Saturday August 18, 2018 from 9 am - 2 pm, Mill River Union High School, North Clarendon, VT.

To subscribe, or unsubscribe to the Linking Health & Learning e-bulletin, write to susan.yesalonia@vermont.gov or call (802) 479-1284.

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