

Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT)

The *Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool* is an assessment tool under development by the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), in partnership with health education experts across the country representing state education agencies, school districts, schools, colleges/universities, and national organizations. The HECAT will enable educators to evaluate curricula based on the extent to which the curricula contain elements of effective health education. These elements are those characteristics that are common to effective programs and most likely account for their positive outcomes; they are identified through research syntheses.

Purpose

- Help schools select high-quality health education curricula.
- Guide the assessment of existing curricula or the development of new curricula.
- Assist state education agencies in developing or enhancing state recommendations for conducting local curriculum review.

Intended Users

- Health education administrators, curriculum supervisors, curriculum committees.
- School-level health education departments.
- College/university health education professionals.

Description

- Based on National Health Education Standards, CDC's school health guidelines, and best practices for teaching high-quality, skills-based health education.
- Can be used to analyze comprehensive and categorical health education curricula and curriculum materials.
- Provides for analysis of multiple issues of importance for selection and development of health education curriculum (e.g., accuracy, acceptability, cost, feasibility of use, and appropriateness of curriculum content).
- Uses a 5-point rubric to assess the extent to which the curriculum addresses essential health concepts, and rubrics to assess the extent to which it addresses essential skills and provides for application of the skills.
- Scheduled for publication in early 2005.
- A complementary tool, the *Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool*, will also be published in 2005.

Components

- *Chapter 1: Instructions* – This chapter includes instructions for starting a review using the HECAT and for completing the review and analysis of curricula.
- *Chapter 2: Curriculum Description* - This chapter guides the analysis and summarizing of basic features of the curriculum that are applicable to any curriculum and important to consider (developer and year of development, content areas and grade levels addressed, required classroom time, how the curriculum matches to other subject standards, etc.).
- *Chapters 3 - 12: Comprehensive Health Education or Categorical Health Topic Curriculum*- These chapters include analysis tools for completing a review of one or more curricula that focus either on comprehensive health education or categorical topic areas (e.g. promoting healthy eating or violence prevention) .

For more information

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