

# Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Physical Education

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*Please note that the page numbers on the CD-ROM version differ from the page numbers found in the hard copy of standards books. In order to make the CD-ROM version more user friendly, we have removed most of the formatting (i.e., blank pages, columns, sizes and types of fonts, etc.).*

## Foreword

The past two years have been exciting for everyone at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as Wisconsin citizens became involved in the development of challenging academic standards in 12 curricular areas. We are now completing one of the most important educational planning efforts in the history of our state. Never before has there been greater discussion about education and what our students should know and be able to do before they graduate from high school.

Effective schools research tells us that one of the most important elements in improving the results of education is being clear about standards. Having clear standards for students and teachers makes it possible to develop rigorous local curricula and valid and reliable assessments. The data from such assessments tells us where we need to place our emphasis as we improve teaching and learning. Being sure that the entire community has input into academic standards is essential if everyone is to have ownership in the education of our students. We are proud that we have developed challenging academic standards not only in the areas traditionally associated with large-scale state and district assessment, but also in subjects where assessment takes place primarily in the classroom.

We believe that these standards will greatly assist parents and educators in preparing students for the twenty-first century. Although Wisconsin has traditionally led the nation in educational excellence, clear statements about what students should know and be able to do are necessary to maintain this strong tradition. My thanks to those of you in all walks of life who have contributed to this important effort.

John T. Benson  
State Superintendent

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# Introduction

## Defining the Academic Standards

**What are academic standards?** Academic standards specify what students should know and be able to do, what they might be asked to do to give evidence of standards, and how well they must perform. They include content, performance, and proficiency standards.

- Content standards refer to *what* students should know and be able to do.
- Performance standards tell *how* students will show that they are meeting a standard.
- Proficiency standards indicate *how well* students must perform.

**Why are academic standards necessary?** Standards serve as rigorous goals for teaching and learning. Setting high standards enables students, parents, educators, and citizens to know what students should have learned at a given point in time. The absence of standards has consequences similar to lack of goals in any pursuit. Without clear goals, students may be unmotivated and confused.

Contemporary society is placing immense academic demands on students. Clear statements about what students must know and be able to do are essential to ensure that our schools offer students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

**Why are state-level academic standards important?** Public education is a state responsibility. The state superintendent and legislature must ensure that all children have equal access to high quality educational programs. At a minimum, this requires clear statements of what all children in the state should know and be able to do as well as evidence that students are meeting these expectations. Furthermore, academic standards form a sound basis on which to establish the content of a statewide assessment system.

**Why does Wisconsin need its own academic standards?** Historically, the citizens of Wisconsin are very serious and thoughtful about education. They expect and receive very high performance from their schools. While educational needs may be similar among states, values differ. Standards should reflect the collective values of the citizens and be tailored to prepare young people for economic opportunities that exist in Wisconsin, the nation, and the world.

## Developing the Academic Standards

**How were Wisconsin’s model academic standards developed?** Citizens throughout the state developed the academic standards. The first phase involved educators, parents, board of education members, and business and industry people who produced preliminary content and performance standards in 12 subjects including English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, visual arts, music, theatre, dance, family and consumer education, foreign language, health education, and physical education. These standards are benchmarked to the end of grades 4, 8, and 12.

The next step required public input aimed at getting information to revise and improve the preliminary standards. This effort included forums and focus groups held

throughout the state. The state superintendent used extensive media exposure, including telecommunications through the DPI home page, to ensure the widest possible awareness and participation in standards development.

Each subject had at least two drafts taken to the general public for their review. All comments received serious consideration. Based on this input, the standards were revised to reflect the values of Wisconsin's citizens.

**Who wrote the academic standards and what resources were used?** Each subject area's academic standards were drafted by teams of educators, parents, board of education members, and business and industry people that were sub-groups of larger task forces. This work was done after reviewing national standards in the subject area, standards from other states, standards from local Wisconsin school districts, and standards developed by special groups like the nationwide New Standards Project.

**How was the public involved in the standards process?** The DPI was involved in extensive public engagement activities to gather citizen input on the first two drafts of the academic standards. Over 19 focus group sessions, 16 community forums, and more than 450 presentations at conferences, conventions, and workshops were held. More than 500,000 paper copies of the standards tabloids have been distributed across the state in addition to more than 4,000 citizen visits to the standards on the DPI web page. Input from these activities, along with more than 90 reviews by state and national organizations, provided the writers with feedback on Wisconsin's model academic standards.

**Will academic standards be developed in areas other than the 12 areas listed above?** Yes, currently the DPI has convened five task forces to begin development of academic standards in agriculture, business, environmental education, marketing, and technology education. Task force members include educators, parents, school board members, and representatives of business and industry. These academic standards will be completed by the start of the 1998-99 school year.

## **Using the Academic Standards**

**How will local districts use the academic standards?** Adopting these standards is voluntary, not mandatory. Districts may use the academic standards as guides for developing local grade-by-grade level curriculum. Implementing standards may require some school districts to upgrade school and district curriculums. In some cases, this may result in significant changes in instructional methods and materials, local assessments, and professional development opportunities for the teaching and administrative staff.

**What is the difference between academic standards and curriculum?** Standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do, what they might be asked to do to give evidence of learning, and how well they should be expected to know or do it. Curriculum is the program devised by local school districts used to prepare students to meet standards. It consists of activities and lessons at each grade level, instructional materials, and various instructional techniques. In short, standards define what is to be learned at certain points in time, and from a broad perspective, what performances will be accepted as evidence that the learning has occurred. Curriculum specifies the details of the day-to-day schooling at the local level.

## **What is the link between statewide academic standards and statewide testing?**

Statewide academic standards in mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies determine the scope of statewide testing. While these standards are much broader in content than any single Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) test, they do describe the range of knowledge and skills that may appear on the tests. If content does not appear in the academic standards, it will not be part of a WSAS test. The statewide standards clarify what must be studied to prepare for WSAS tests. If students have learned all of the material indicated by the standards in the assessed content areas, they should do very well on the state tests.

## **Relating the Academic Standards to All Students**

Parents and educators of students with disabilities, with limited English proficiency (LEP), and with accelerated needs may ask why academic standards are important for their students. Academic standards serve as a valuable basis for establishing meaningful goals as part of each student's developmental progress and demonstration of proficiency. The clarity of academic standards provides meaningful, concrete goals for the achievement of students with exceptional education needs (EEN), LEP, and accelerated needs consistent with all other students.

Academic standards may serve as the foundation for individualized programming decisions for students with EEN, LEP, and accelerated needs. While the vast majority of students with EEN and LEP should be expected to work toward and achieve these standards, accommodations and modifications to help these students reach the achievement goals will need to be individually identified and implemented. For students with EEN, these decisions are made as part of their individualized education program (IEP) plans. Accelerated students may achieve well beyond the academic standards and move into advanced grade levels or into advanced coursework.

Clearly, these academic standards are for all students. As our state assessments are aligned with these standards and school districts adopt, adapt, or develop their own standards and multiple measures for determining proficiencies of students, greater accountability for the progress of all students can be assured. In Wisconsin this means all students reaching their full individual potential, every school being accountable, every parent a welcomed partner, every community supportive, and no excuses.

## **Applying the Academic Standards Across the Curriculum**

When community members and employers consider what they want citizens and employees to know and be able to do, they often speak of broad areas of applied knowledge such as communication, thinking, problem solving, and decision making. These areas connect or go beyond the mastery of individual subject areas. As students apply their knowledge both within and across the various curricular areas, they develop the concepts and complex thinking of an educated person.

Community members need these skills to function as responsible citizens. Employers prize those employees who demonstrate these skills because they are people who can continue learning and connect what they have learned to the requirements of a job. College and university faculty recognize the need for these skills as the means of developing the level of understanding that separates the expert from the beginner.



Teachers in every class should expect and encourage the development of these shared applications, both to promote the learning of the subject content and to extend learning across the curriculum. These applications fall into five general categories:

- 1) **Application of the Basics**
- 2) **Ability to Think**
  - Problem solving
  - Informed decision making
  - Systems thinking
  - Critical, creative, and analytical thinking
  - Imagining places, times, and situations different from one’s own
  - Developing and testing a hypothesis
  - Transferring learning to new situations
- 3) **Skill in Communication**
  - Constructing and defending an argument
  - Working effectively in groups
  - Communicating plans and processes for reaching goals
  - Receiving and acting on instructions, plans, and models
  - Communicating with a variety of tools and skills
- 4) **Production of Quality Work**
  - Acquiring and using information
  - Creating quality products and performances
  - Revising products and performances
  - Developing and pursuing positive goals
- 5) **Connections with Community**
  - Recognizing and acting on responsibilities as a citizen
  - Preparing for work and lifelong learning
  - Contributing to the aesthetic and cultural life of the community
  - Seeing oneself and one’s community within the state, nation, and world
  - Contributing and adapting to scientific and technological change

## Overview of Physical Education

Physical educators throughout Wisconsin are responsible for helping children and youth acquire the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence they need to participate in a wide variety of physical activities during their school years and beyond. The *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Physical Education* were developed from the National Standards for Physical Education and are designed to describe what students should know and be able to do as a result of instruction in school. The standards also provide a guide for preservice preparation and continuing education of physical education teachers and elementary teachers who frequently are called upon to provide some physical education activities.

Educators can help motivate students to make a commitment to be physically active by aligning instruction with these standards for physical education, and creating curriculum and activities designed to instill within students a desire to be active for life. A comprehensive, developmentally appropriate prekindergarten through grade 12 program includes promotion of physical activity among youth and motivation to pursue lifelong active participation which ensures optimal quality of life.

The research is clear. People who are physically active on a regular basis are healthier than those who are not. However, despite numerous studies linking a sedentary lifestyle to health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity, the *1996 Surgeon General's Report* indicates that more than half of American youth ages 12 to 21 are not vigorously active on a regular basis. In addition, participation in all types of physical activity declines strikingly as age or grade in school increases. This should be a critical challenge especially to all middle and high school physical educators. They must play a key role in reversing this trend by designing programs that:

- teach students motor skills necessary to participate in a wide variety of physical activities
- help students understand the link between physical activity and good health
- convince even the least athletic students that physical activity has the immediate benefits of reducing stress, building self-esteem, and controlling weight, as well as being fun and inexpensive

In the spring of 1997, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published *Guidelines for School and Community Programs—Promoting Lifelong Physical Activity*. These guidelines, along with the Surgeon General's Report of 1996, emphasize the need for physical education programs that stress enjoyable participation in lifetime physical activities such as walking, biking, and dancing, not just the traditional competitive sports. The *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Physical Education* are the foundation to build meaningful physical education experiences for all students.

## **A: Leading an Active Lifestyle**

### **Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will exhibit a physically active lifestyle.

### **Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is to establish patterns of regular participation in meaningful physical activity. This standard connects what is done in physical education classes with the lives of students outside of physical education. Activities, games, and sports provide for healthful relief from stress and an enjoyable use of leisure time. Positive experiences in these activities provide motivation to develop and maintain a healthy, physically active lifestyle.

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

#### **By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- A.4.1 Select and participate regularly in physical activities for the purpose of improving skill and maintaining good health
- A.4.2 Describe healthful benefits that result from regular physical activity
- A.4.3 Identify several moderate to vigorous physical activities that provide personal pleasure

#### **By the end of grade 8 students will:**

- A.8.1 Establish personal physical activity goals
- A.8.2 Participate at least three times a week in physical activities that contribute to the attainment of and maintenance of personal physical activity goals
- A.8.3 Explore personal interests in a variety of new physical activities both in and out of the physical education class
- A.8.4 Describe the relationship between a healthy lifestyle and simply *feeling good*

#### **By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- A.12.1 Participate regularly in health-enhancing fitness activities such as games, sports, dance, outdoor pursuits, and other physical activities that contribute to the maintenance of wellness, independent of class requirements

- A.12.2 Understand the ways in which personal characteristics, performance styles, and activity preferences will change over the life span
- A.12.3 Maintain and improve physical fitness, motor skills and knowledge about physical activity through charting or journalizing improvement over time
- A.12.4 Accurately evaluate physical activity information, products, and services to become an informed and responsible physical activity consumer
- A.12.5 Design and implement a personal fitness program

## **B: Physical Skill Development**

### **Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will demonstrate competency in many forms of movement and proficiency in some.

### **Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is the development of competence in movement. Movement is the foundation of many everyday work tasks and the play skills of children. It is also a prerequisite to successful participation in leisure activities, recreational programs, and sports. Basic movement skills are related to academic performance, cognitive development, and social development especially during childhood. Proper technique in fundamental movement skills positively influences students' personal attitudes toward physical activity. Learning what the body can do enhances students' ability to use movement as a form of expression and communication.

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

#### **By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- B.4.1 Demonstrate progress toward the mature form of all locomotor (movement) patterns and selected manipulative and nonlocomotor skills such as throwing, catching, and kicking
- B.4.2 Adapt a physical skill to the demands of a dynamic, unpredictable environment such as balancing with control on a variety of objects (balance board, large apparatus, skates)
- B.4.3 Acquire beginning skills in a few specialized movement forms such as dribbling and passing a basketball to a moving receiver or jumping and landing for height/distance using mature form

B.4.4 Apply combined movement skills in a variety of settings such as developing and refining a creative dance sequence into repeatable patterns

**By the end of grade 8 students will:**

- B.8.1 Demonstrate competence in modified versions of movement forms such as performing in a variety of simple folk and square dances
- B.8.2 Develop beginning strategies for competitive and noncompetitive games such as using basic offensive and defensive strategies in a modified version of a team sport
- B.8.3 Demonstrate increasing competence in more advanced specialized physical skills
- B.8.4 Explain how people can enjoy an activity if they are not gifted athletes

**By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- B.12.1 Demonstrate competence (basic skills, strategies, and rules) in an increasing number of more complex versions of different types of movement forms such as aquatics, team sports, individual and dual sports, outdoor activities, self-defense, dance, and gymnastics
- B.12.2 Demonstrate competence and work toward advanced proficiency in selected activities such as participating in a tennis match using all the basic skills, rules and strategies with some consistency; passing the Red Cross intermediate swimming requirement; getting nine out of ten arrows in the target from 40 feet; using advanced offensive and defensive shots in a racquetball game against an opponent of similar skill

## **C: Learning Skills**

### **Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will apply concepts and principles of movement to the learning and development of physical skills.

### **Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is for the student to understand and apply concepts of physical movement, training, and sports psychology that affect physical performance. Knowledge and application of these concepts enhance the likelihood of independent learning and, therefore, more regular and effective participation in physical activity.

## **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- C.4.1 Work on improving personal performance in fundamental and selected specialized motor skills such as throwing, catching, running
- C.4.2 Use critical elements of fundamental and specialized movement skills to provide feedback to others such as accurately recognizing the critical elements of a throw made by a fellow student and providing positive feedback to that student
- C.4.3 Recognize and apply concepts that affect the quality of increasingly complex movement performance such as consistently striking a ball with a bat or paddle demonstrating an appropriate grip
- C.4.4 Identify and apply characteristics and critical elements of highly skilled performance to develop movement competence or proficiency such as using internal and external information to modify movement during performance

**By the end of grade 8 students will:**

- C.8.1 Understand and apply more advanced movement and game strategies such as explaining and demonstrating strategies involved in playing tennis doubles
- C.8.2 Identify the critical elements of more advanced movement skills such as a racing start in free style swimming
- C.8.3 Identify and apply principles of practice and conditioning to enhance performance such as understanding that conditioning will allow one to play for longer periods of time without fatigue
- C.8.4 Identify the characteristics of highly skilled performance in movement forms such as describing the characteristics that enable success in passing and spiking after observing a team of skillful volleyball players
- C.8.5 Understand and apply advanced, discipline-specific knowledge to various movement forms such as understanding how to lead or follow a partner while dancing

**By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- C.12.1 Know and understand pertinent, scientifically-based information regarding movement performance such as the overload principle
- C.12.2 Independently apply advanced, movement-specific information
- C.12.3 Integrate discipline-specific knowledge to enable the independent learning of movement skills such as designing a long-term plan for self-improvement in a

movement activity and explaining the relationship of physical, emotional and cognitive factors that influence the rate of movement

C.12.4 Identify and apply characteristics and critical elements of highly skilled performance to develop movement competence or proficiency such as using internal and external information to modify movement during performance

## **D: Understanding Physical Activity and Well Being**

### **Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will understand that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

### **Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is to develop the awareness that physical activity provides positive internal benefits. Physical activity offers opportunities for positive self-expression, social interaction, group membership, and meeting challenges. All of these activities encourage students to continue lifelong personal enjoyment of physical activities.

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

#### **By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- D.4.1 Experience the opportunity for enjoyment while participating in physical activity
- D.4.2 Learn to enjoy practicing activities to increase skill competence
- D.4.3 Celebrate personal successes and achievements as well as those of others
- D.4.4 Use physical activity as a means of self-expression

#### **By the end of grade 8 students will:**

- D.8.1 Feel satisfaction when engaging in physical activity
- D.8.2 Recognize the social benefits of participation in physical activity such as the joy of participating with a team and sensing team fulfillment
- D.8.3 Enjoy learning new activities
- D.8.4 Recognize physical activity as a vehicle for self-expression

**By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- D.12.1 Derive pleasure from participating in physical activities in competitive and recreational settings
- D.12.2 Pursue new activities both alone and with others
- D.12.3 Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of teammates and provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy success within skill limitations
- D.12.4 Enter competition or activity voluntarily

**E: Health-enhancing Fitness**

**Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

**Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is student achievement of a health-enhancing level of fitness. This level of fitness facilitates normal growth and development as well as delays the aging process. It allows individuals to adapt to stress and meet the demands of daily living by increasing energy levels. Achievement of a health-enhancing level of fitness is a proactive alternative to rising health-care costs; it reduces the risk of injury, cardiovascular disease, and health risks related to a sedentary lifestyle.

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- E.4.1 Identify several activities related to each component of physical fitness such as development of muscular strength
- E.4.2 Associate results of fitness testing to personal health status and the ability to perform various activities such as maintaining continuous aerobic activity for a specific time and/or activity and supporting, lifting, and controlling body weight in a variety of activities
- E.4.3 Describe personal strengths and weaknesses and elevate the weaknesses to strengths

**By the end of grade 8 students will:**



- E.8.1 Participate in a variety of health-related activities in both school and nonschool settings in order to maintain a record of moderate to vigorous physical activity
- E.8.2 Assess physiological indicators of exercise such as pulse rate during and after physical activity
- E.8.3 Understand and apply basic principles of training to improve physical fitness such as various weight training techniques
- E.8.4 Meet health-related fitness standards
- E.8.5 Begin to design personal health-related fitness programs based on an accurately assessed fitness profile, for example, engage in physical activity at the target heart rate for a minimum of 30 minutes at least 3 times a week outside of the physical education class

**By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- E.12.1 Monitor exercise and other behaviors related to health-related fitness
- E.12.2 Maintain appropriate levels of cardiovascular and respiratory efficiency, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility and body composition necessary for a healthful lifestyle
- E.12.3 Assess personal health-related fitness status
- E.12.4 Continue meeting health-related fitness standards
- E.12.5 Use the results of fitness assessments to guide changes in personal program of physical activity

## **F: Respectful Behavior**

### **Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical-activity settings.

### **Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is for students to demonstrate responsible social behaviors that promote personal and group success in physical activity. Social responsibilities include attention to safe practices, rules, and procedures; etiquette; cooperation; teamwork; ethics; and respectful, positive social interaction.

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

#### **By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- F.4.1 Follow activity-specific rules, procedures, and etiquette with little or no reinforcement
- F.4.2 Utilize safety principles in activity situations
- F.4.3 Work productively with a partner to improve skills, for example improve the over-hand throw pattern for distance by using the critical elements of the process
- F.4.4 Work independently and *on task* for short periods of time
- F.4.5 Accept the teacher's decision regarding a personal rule infraction without displaying negative reactions toward others

#### **By the end of grade 8 students will:**

- F.8.1 Identify positive and negative peer influence
- F.8.2 Solve problems by analyzing causes and potential solutions
- F.8.3 Make choices based on the safety of self and others
- F.8.4 Consider the consequences when confronted with a behavior choice
- F.8.5 Resolve interpersonal conflicts with a sensitivity to rights and feeling of others; find positive ways to exert independence
- F.8.6 Work cooperatively with a group to achieve group goals in competitive as well as cooperative settings

**By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- F.12.1 Apply rules, procedures, and etiquette in all physical-activity settings
- F.12.2 Act independently of peer pressure
- F.12.3 Defuse potential conflicts by communicating with other participants
- F.12.4 Keep in perspective the importance of winning and losing relative to other established goals of participation
- F.12.5 Take appropriate leadership or supportive roles in activities
- F.12.6 Create a safe environment for their own skill practice and group activities
- F.12.7 Set personal goals for activity and work toward their achievement

**G: Understanding Diversity**

**Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will demonstrate understanding and respect for differences among people in physical-activity settings.

**Rationale:**

The intent of this standard is the development of the student's respect and appreciation for individual similarities and differences through positive interaction between participants in physical activity. Similarities and differences may include physical ability, culture, ethnicity, physical characteristics (such as strength, size, and shape), gender, race, and socio-economic status.

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**By the end of grade 4 students will:**

- G.4.1 Explore cultural and ethnic self-awareness through participation in physical activity
- G.4.2 Demonstrate acceptance of the skill and ability of others through verbal and nonverbal behavior
- G.4.3 Indicate respect for persons from different backgrounds and the cultural significance as they contribute to various games, dances, and physical activities

**By the end of grade 8 students will:**

- G.8.1 Recognize the role of sports, games, and dance in modern culture
- G.8.2 Identify behaviors that are supportive and inclusive in physical-activity settings
- G.8.3 Display sensitivity to the feelings of others during interpersonal interactions
- G.8.4 Respect the physical and performance limitations of self and others

**By the end of grade 12 students will:**

- G.12.1 Recognize the value of sports and physical activity in understanding multiculturalism
- G.12.2 Invite students of both genders and various ethnic backgrounds and those with exceptional needs to join in personally enjoyable physical activities
- G.12.3 Display a willingness to experiment with the sport and activity of other cultures
- G.12.4 Develop strategies for including persons of diverse backgrounds and abilities in physical activities
- G.12.5 Recognize how participation in physical activity influences appreciation for people of both genders, varying cultures and ethnic groups, and those with various levels of physical ability or disability