



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

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Caitlin Dooley, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction  
Georgia Department of Education  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30334

April 25, 2018

Dear Dr. Dooley:

Georgia Shape and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the standards review process for the physical education standards. For the past several months Georgia Shape has been involved with reviewing the new Georgia Standards of Excellence in Physical Education. As I served on the Academic Review and Advisory Committees and worked alongside physical educators and representatives from other community organizations to develop engaging and relevant standards I found the Department of Education successfully responded to the needs and input of educators, and thus I support the proposed Standards of Excellence.

Physical education is a crucial part of educating the whole child, preparing students to make meaningful contributions to the 21st century workforce by providing a pathway to a healthy lifestyle as well as contributing to the enhancement of skills in critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and cooperation. The revised standards also allow for increased flexibility, while providing general guidance and a broad framework for local education officials to build a more detailed, rigorous, and meaningful curriculum for their students.

From our intimate knowledge of the review process through participation on the Advisory Committee and the Academic Review Committee, and the resulting improvements to the standards, we wholeheartedly support the proposed Georgia Standards of Excellence, which are now before the State Board of Education for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Vall', is positioned above the typed name.

Emily Anne Vall, PhD  
Georgia Shape Program Manager  
Georgia Department of Public Health  
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