

**OVERVIEW**  
**Advocacy Issues**  
**American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance**  
**June 2005**

No Child Left Behind

AAHPERD and its members are especially concerned about the previously passed ESEA-NCLB legislation. While this law is not scheduled for re-authorization until October 2007, AAHPERD would like to lay the groundwork for several revisions. This will include seeking sponsors and supporters for revisions that will support Health and Physical Education as “integral parts of curricula” with “highly qualified” teachers in all subjects.

Many school districts are reducing time allotted for physical education and health education at school in favor of increased academic time. Compounding this situation is the No Child Left Behind Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB) of 2003 with its focused accountability for achievement in reading, math and English/language arts through high stakes tests which pressure schools in ways that limit the potential for a comprehensive curriculum that educates the whole child.

For many years, schools have been challenged by trying to fit all subjects and activities into the school day. It is not new to subjects such as art, music, and physical education to have to fight for a place and adequate time in a crowded curriculum. However, the magnitude of this problem has escalated dramatically since passage of NCLB, which focuses on student achievement in core subjects. Section 9101 of the law defines 'core academic subjects' as English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.

The omission of subjects such as physical education and health education, from the list of core subjects has created unintended negative consequences - diminishing time and resources for subjects not identified as “core.” It is critical to achieving the objectives of No Child Left Behind that all children be provided with a balanced and comprehensive education to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This includes health education and physical education as key, fundamental components of the curriculum that will help students prepare for all other aspects of life.

In a recent study on how NCLB is influencing instructional time and professional development, three-quarters of all principals surveyed said that instructional time for reading, writing, and mathematics is increasing greatly or somewhat, and almost half reported increased instructional time for science. Additionally, over 50 percent reported moderate or large increases in time for teachers to enhance their skills and knowledge in those areas. It appears that this is happening at the expense of other subject areas, which must be reduced to make room for increases. In the study, 29 percent of principals reported decreases in time for social studies, and 25 percent reported decreases for the arts.

NCLB also has a special requirement for “highly qualified” teachers. However, the requirement applies only to teachers of the identified subject areas. It is critical that all teachers are highly qualified. Reports from physical educators around the country indicate that professional development resources are only being utilized for teachers of core subjects, thus depriving others of the benefits of continuing professional education. While AAHPERD and its member associations support President Bush’s call for highly qualified teachers, they also support the need and importance of highly qualified teachers in physical education and health education.

Quality physical education and health education programs in all K-12 schools provide the foundation for healthy, active lifestyles that support all learning and help ensure success in future pursuits. While families and communities play important roles in the prevention of obesity and other health risks, schools can and must help all children develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles.

Many children will indeed be left behind if they do not:

- learn how to achieve and maintain health-related fitness and more healthy lifestyle choices
- have opportunities to explore and understand their physical capacities
- gain an understanding and appreciation of their responsibilities as citizens, and
- develop character traits to help them make good decisions about positive behaviors that support their well-being.

Senator John Cornyn is planning to introduce a comprehensive childhood obesity bill that would, among other things, amend No Child Left Behind to add physical education and health education to the list of core subjects. AAHPERD members should seek support from Senators to cosponsor this legislation and encourage House members to consider sponsoring and introducing similar legislation on that side.

## **AAALF/AALR**

### **Action Needed**

- **Full funding for all parts of IDEA**, including the Part B Grants to States Program (including preschool grants), the Part C Infants and Toddlers Program, and the Part D Support Programs. AAALF/AALR supports the planned approach to achieving full funding by increasing funding by 2.5 billion dollars annually for the next seven years

### **Action Needed**

- Authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make 10,000,000 dollars available in grants for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to nonprofit community organizations for the development of open space on municipally owned vacant lots in urban areas. The grants would be available to qualified community organizations for the establishment of community open space in urban areas. The aggregate amount of any grants made under this Act to any single qualified community organization in any single fiscal year may not exceed 250,000 dollars.

## AAHE

### Action Needed

- Support amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by designating both ***Certified Health Education Specialists*** and Certified Diabetes Educators as providers of outpatient diabetes self-management training services under part B of the Medicare program.

Senator Ben Nelson has introduced **Senate Bill 626**, which calls for Certified Diabetes Educators to be added to the list of providers under part B of the Medicare program as providers of outpatient diabetes self-management training services. We are asking that ***Certified Health Education Specialists*** also be included as approved providers of diabetes self-management training services.

**This Act may be cited as the `Diabetes Self Management Training Act of 2005'.**

### Action Needed

- Support a FY 2006 budget appropriation increase of 20 million dollars for the CDC's School Health Programs. This would cause 34.2 million dollars to be designated for CDC's School Health Programs
- This would bring the total FY 06 Request for Funding for the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health to a total of 76.8 million dollars.

## NAGWS

### Action Needed

- **Oppose the U.S. Department of Education's new Title IX "Additional Clarification."**
- **Request support for the High School Athletics Accountability Act, H.R. 595.**
- **Increase awareness about Title IX's Protection of whistleblowers (*Jackson v. Birmingham* decision).**
- **Increase Title IX educational efforts and pursue stronger enforcement of Title IX.**

## NDA

### Action Needed

- **Write to your elected officials and ask them to support an increased funding level of 53 million dollars for FY '06 for the U.S. Department of Education's Arts in Education program.**

## **NASPE**

### **Action Needed**

- **Support 100 million dollar appropriation for the PEP bill in FY 2006.**
- **Increased funding for CDC's Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity and VERB programs.**
- **Support Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity Act (IMPACT).**
- **Support Prevention of Childhood Obesity Act.**