

My name is Deb Van Klei, and I am a district coordinator for Stillwater Area Public Schools. I'm here today to tell you why I support SF1090 that delays the physical education standards revision process until the 2026-27 school year. I've been teaching for 29 years, and we have been working hard to create curriculum maps utilizing the MN PE standards since 2019. I was fortunate enough to serve on the MDE Physical Education Standards Development Committee in 2017 and on the MDE Physical Education Leadership team designing and implementing professional development of the new physical education standards.

Currently, Minnesota schools have been utilizing the 2010 state physical education standards which identify 6 required state standards. The grade-level benchmarks, or outcomes, are developed at the district level.

Although our district worked hard to identify grade-level expectations K-8 and in HS, I have found that grade-level expectations differ significantly across the district. This difference means that our physical education programs are different across the state creating inequitable learning opportunities for our students.

Our new physical education standards are different in that they identify specifically what grade level expectations are for students K-8 and in high school and result in all students having the same opportunities to learn no matter what school district they attend.

My district began working towards the implementation of the new standards when MDE, partnering with MNSHAPE and MNDAPPE, began to offer professional development opportunities in 2018. Because we have these new grade-level benchmarks, it was really important all PE teachers across the state understand and commit to the new grade-level benchmarks.

The PD opportunities were disrupted by the COVID epidemic and we spent the next couple of years learning how to teach physical education online or in a hybrid model.

It is my understanding that it was due to COVID that the legislature delayed the implementation of the new PE standards from 2021-2022 to the 2023-24 school year. That time has been helpful to continue our preparation with MDE/MNSHAPE and MNDAPPE to implement next school year. Our school/district has spent the last few years getting ready for full implementation.

It is my understanding that one of the reasons Minnesota revises standards every 10 years is to make sure they reflect the most current new, changing or emerging content area knowledge and skills based on research and best practice and to ensure there are fair and equitable expectations for all students across the state.

In order to revise standards, the first step is to evaluate the current standards after district-level implementation, to gain insight as to what is working or may need to be changed in the standards.

At this point, we would be unable to collect any of that data as our baseline for change because at this time, the standards have not met the full implementation date of next school year statewide.

Another issue is that there is confusing messaging to teachers by revising standards not yet implemented.

Teachers need time to fully implement the standards before we can assess how they are working with our students. We need to be with our students to do that. Running a revision process interrupts that time because MDE will ask teachers to volunteer for committee work on the revision and ask teachers from all over the state to provide input to multiple drafts as well as attend public meetings and hearings.

As a member of MNSHAPE, we provide professional development across the state. In conversations with fellow physical education teachers, it is evident that districts are in various levels of implementation and providing them time to fully implement and understand the impact on students would prove beneficial.

I'm here today as a physical educator to ask for your support in delaying the revision of the Minnesota physical education standards until the 2026-27 school year. I'm grateful for this opportunity to share my experiences with you and appreciate your support.

Deb Van Klei

Stillwater Area Public Schools

MNSHAPE President-Elect

District Coordinator