

Dear Senate Education Finance Committee Members,

My name is Derek Picha and I am a physical education and adapted physical education teacher at Sumner Elementary School in the Austin Public School District and the current President of MNSHAPE. I'm here today to tell you why I support Senate File 1090 that delays the physical education standards revision process until the 2026-27 school year. I've been teaching for 10 years.

I support the delay of physical education standards revision because our district is just beginning the curriculum review process and our work in that process could be made obsolete if the standards become revised as soon as we're done with curriculum review. Additionally, as a state leader in the physical education field on the board of directors for MNSHAPE, knowing where we are at the state level in regards to our standards is highly important so we can best meet the needs of teachers throughout the state by planning purposeful professional development opportunities aligned to standard implementation.

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. Our 2018 standards include specific grade-level benchmarks for each standard and many teachers and schools will need varying levels of support and professional development during their curriculum review process.

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, as a state we have not yet reached full implementation of the 2018 standards, so it is not appropriate to begin revision without necessary feedback for improvement or changing of the current standards due to not having the chance for sufficient feedback from Minnesota schools on the current standards.

I'm here today as a physical education teacher and state leader within the field to ask for your support in delaying the physical education standard revision process until the 2026-2027 school year. Thank you for this opportunity to share my experience.

Sincerely,

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