

Draft note for Members of Congress

Note: Due to mail security issues, it is important to FAX this message to the Member's Washington, D.C. office or mail it to the District office.

Dear Congressman/Senator:

As Congress moves closer to reauthorization of ESEA, I am writing to request that you, as a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee/Senate HELP Committee, include health education and physical education either as core subjects or as an allowable use of flexible education funding.

Both of these curricular areas meet the characteristics of other academic subjects, including academic content standards, instructional resources, teacher certification, grading, and student assessment. According to the CDC, health education and physical education have a significant impact on students' educational outcomes and are part of a well-rounded curriculum. The omission of physical education and health education as core academic subjects has translated to schools reducing and/or eliminating these already marginalized programs. As a result, efforts to address the childhood obesity epidemic and other serious health and behavioral issues faced by today's youth have proven even more challenging.

Parental involvement in children's education is of paramount importance. A recent survey by NASPE (National Association for Sports and Physical Education), reveals that parents believe that physical education is an important part of their children's school day.

(Add a personal, state or local reference)

Congressman/Senator, I would be pleased to meet with you, or a member of your staff during the August recess or one of your visits back to the district to demonstrate the difference that health education and physical education can play in a student's life. Finally, I respectfully ask that as ESEA reauthorization moves forward both subjects are either considered core subjects, or given the "status" that would make them eligible for federal funds.