

Subject Academic standards

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Date February 23, 2026

Overview

Minnesota requires public schools to provide students with health education instruction, but currently does not have statewide health education standards. In other academic areas, such as math or language arts, Minnesota has statewide standards and benchmarks that determine what students learn in each grade. In health education, however, standards are set at the local level, meaning school districts and charter schools individually determine what content to teach. However, state law requires districts and charter schools to provide instruction on certain health-related topics, such as vaping, and allows or encourages them to provide instruction on certain other health-related topics.

In 2024, the legislature required the Minnesota Department of Education to develop statewide health education standards. Locally developed health standards will apply until statewide rules implementing the statewide health standards are required to be implemented in the classroom. The state standards must include health-related content public schools are already required to teach.

The commissioner of education appointed a committee to develop the health standards, following the normal process for developing and revising state standards. The commissioner approved the final draft of the health standards in December 2025, and the standards are currently going through the rulemaking process. A notice of intent to adopt rules was published in the state register, opening the public comment period, and the statement of need and reasonableness (SONAR) was released. The public comment period closed on February 9.

This bill allows districts and charter schools to continue to teach local standards after the state standards are adopted.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Required standard. [Definitions] Modifies the definition of “required standard.” Allows districts to determine whether to implement state health standards or locally developed health standards.
2	Required academic standards. Allows districts to determine whether to implement state health standards or locally developed health standards.
3	Revisions and reviews required. [Required academic standards.] Requires districts and charter schools implementing local standards in health education to revise and align the standards and high school graduation requirements in health education to require students to complete the standards in a school year determined by the district or charter school, and to establish a periodic review cycle for the standards and related benchmarks.
4	Graduation requirements. Allows students to satisfy graduation requirements by completing credits that satisfy either state or local health standards.



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