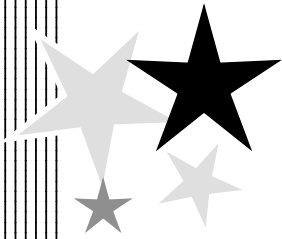


MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT and the SCASS Project



Education reforms which are occurring nationally and at the state level call for students to be able to think critically, solve complex problems, and communicate effectively as they seek to achieve their own potential and develop into responsible, productive citizens.

Health education has been part of that reform, with the field moving toward assessments that are based on the skills found in the health education content standards, and which call for student to think critically, solve complex problems, apply health skills, and communicate effectively about health issues.

The State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) that is developing assessments and other resources in several disciplines, including health education. The health education project is a collaborative one, involving the input and participation of 30 states, including Michigan, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The health education project has developed performance-based assessment items appropriate for both large-scale and classroom use at the elementary, middle high school levels. Four types of items are available in nine content areas: multiple choice, short answer and essay, performance events which can be completed within one class period, and performance tasks which can take several days to complete.

Other resources that support effective health education assessment have also been developed as a result of the collaboration, and are available to members of the collaborative at reduced prices. These resources are helping build capacity at the classroom and district level for authentic assessment of health education. These resources include:

- ★ ***HealthHELP CD-Rom***, which provides assessment items, professional development resources such as articles on performance-based assessment, a Power Point presentation regarding the SCASS project, and reference information regarding health education and school health programs. Some of the baked items are released by password for use in the classroom or at the district level. The reference information is especially valuable to persons completing a degree or teaching certificate in health education.
- ★ ***The Assessment Framework***, which identifies critical health education skills and knowledge, and prioritizes them by grade level. This is an excellent resource for K-12 curriculum planning at the district or building level.
- ★ ***A Guide to Portfolios***, which provides technical assistance in setting up portfolio assessment for students of health education.
- ★ ***Assessment Tools for Teachers***, which combines aspects of the Framework and the Guide to Portfolios into classroom manuals organized by grade level: Elementary, Middle School and High School. This is probably the single most important resource for classroom teachers.

If you have any additional questions about the SCASS project, please call your regional Comprehensive School Health Coordinator, or the Department of Education at (517) 241-4437.

