

HEAP CHARTER

HEAP— HEALTH EDUCATION ASSESSMENT PROJECT

<http://www.ccsso.org/heap>

THE MISSION OF HEAP

To develop effective health education assessment resources through a collaborative process, and to increase members' capacity to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment to improve student health literacy through improved health education instruction.

MAIN IDEA

In order to develop a health literate population schools must transform instruction and assessment to provide students with the skills necessary to be healthy and successful in the 21st century.

VALUES THAT SUPPORT THE IDEA

- Healthy students make better learners and more productive citizens
- A health literate person is proficient in a variety of skills to support healthy decision-making
- Poor health has an economic impact not only to individuals but also to families, communities, businesses and government.
- There is a causal link between health and reading literacy
- Practicing health skills improves student health literacy
- Skills-based instruction enhances the learning process for health education as well as other subject domains
- Sharing expertise, state initiatives, and jointly developing education products, enhances the dissemination of best practices in education
- Rich content necessitates an improvement in the cognitive complexity of both assessments and instructional activities
- Transforming the educational delivery system is necessary to transform instruction to improve student learning

MECHANISMS (ACTIVITIES)

- Through collaborative work sessions and the HEAP's web-based assessment system, develop more skills-based assessments (based on the skills in the national health education standards) encompassing various levels of cognitive complexity
- Using the skill-based assessment items of varying levels of cognitive complexity, create professional development packets for states to use in teacher training
- Convert the HEAP's distance learning course to a self-based course using open-source learning management system software to support states' efforts to train teachers in skills-based health education and assessment

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- Continue to develop products to support states in aligning health and reading and train members in their use. Link state health specialists and state reading specialists.
- Examine the skills cues for the national health education standards to align to a cognitive level. Develop learning progressions for all the skill standards. Publish.
- Increase use of the Web-based assessment system with online assessment of students to demonstrate how diagnostic assessment influences instructional design
- Increase use of the Web-based assessment system with online assessment of students to document how teachers are teaching to standards and improving student skill levels
- Provide a series of recorded professional development opportunities for members through web-ex. Provide links to these workshop for state members to share with their teachers.
- Redesign the HEAP website to support states in accessing resources that will support them in developing more effective state training structures to transform instruction
- Develop partnerships with researchers in health literacy, reading specialists, and assessment experts
- Seek partners for joint projects and funding opportunities

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2007-08

- Provided technical assistance to members' to build their capacity to implement teacher training through the HEAP's distance learning initiative and the eUniversity course
- Supported states' capacity to use the HEAP's web-based assessment system to help teachers implement diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment of standards-based, skills-based health education
- Built the health and technology literacy of members by providing professional development/business meetings during year through web-ex meetings
- Produced a health literacy poster targeted to high school and college students to accompany the health literacy poster targeted to elementary and middle school students
- Developed a sixth professional development module for states to use in face-to-face trainings or within distance learning PD programs. Distributed this module in CD form to the members. Revised the PD Module Binders to include the 6th module.
- Modified the HEAP order forms to reflect the changes in the PD binders and to include the new health literacy poster
- Developed and revised the item development tool within the HEAP's web-based assessment system
- Developed draft assessment items using the web-based assessment system's item development tool
- Revised the present professional development modules to reflect the new wording of the revised national health education standards

COMMUNICATION

The HEAP will communicate to a variety of audiences by:

- HEAP listserv messages to members and to steering committee members
- HEAP web-based assessment system e-newsletters 2-3 times per year
- HEAP members-only site
- HEAP business meetings and professional development offerings through web-ex
- Face-to-face meetings for members twice a year
- Collaborative meeting with other health and education organizations
- Chiefline article submission when appropriate
- HEAP workshops conducted at major health and education conferences

MARKETING

- Messages about HEAP posted on the Comprehensive Health Education Network listserv (900 members)
- HEAP Products marketing in every issue of the American Journal of School Health's professional journal, the *Journal of School Health*
- HEAP materials marketed by ToucanEd at major school and public health conferences and through e-mail blasts
- HEAP marketed to other states by word-of-mouth by HEAP members

LEADERSHIP PLAN

HEAP activities are coordinated by the SCASS HEAP coordinator, a part-time staff member of CCSSO. The HEAP coordinator works with the HEAP steering committee, ToucanEd (publisher and distributor of the HEAP professional development materials), and Metalogic, Inc. (HEAP's web-based assessment system), to direct the business of the HEAP. In addition, two consultants are used to 1) advance the work of developing cognitive complex assessment items, and 2) advance the health and reading initiative.

MEMBERS IN 2007-2008

18 STATES: AR, CA, CT, FL, HI, ID, MA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NH, NJ, PA, SC, SD, VT, WI, WY

2 EDUCATION AGENCIES: DODEA, PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

CCSSO STAFF SUPPORT

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