

Oklahoma Public Health Association
Health Education Section
Health Education Resolution

WHEREAS, Oklahoma ranks 49th in overall health status by the United Health Foundation; (i) and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is the sixth most obese state in the country with 30.6 percent of obese adults and 16.4% of obese children; (ii) and

WHEREAS, the United Health Foundation predicts that by 2018, Oklahoma will be the most obese state in the nation; (vi) and

WHEREAS, 49 percent of Oklahoma's High School students have tried cigarette smoking and 10% have reported using smokeless tobacco products; (vi) and

WHEREAS, 71 percent of Oklahoma High School students have consumed alcohol during their lifetime; (vi) and

WHEREAS, health-related factors, such as hunger and unmanaged chronic illness like asthma and diabetes can lead to poor school performance; (vii/viii) and

WHEREAS, health-risk behaviors such as physical inactivity, poor diets, and substance use are consistently linked to academic failure and often affect students' school attendance, grades, test scores, and ability to pay attention in class; (ii,iv,vi) and

WHEREAS, children enrolled in Health Education have better opportunities to learn about healthy relationships, bullying prevention, and safe behaviors to reduce risk from injuries; (ii/v) and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is only one of two states in the nation that has no requirement for health education in its public schools even though the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend comprehensive health education in grades kindergarten through 12; (vi)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Oklahoma Public Health Association strongly recommends the Oklahoma State Legislature pass legislation mandating Health Education to be taught in the public schools of Oklahoma.

References:

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