

ARTICLE REVIEWED

Transforming PETE's Initial Standards: Ensuring Social Justice for Black Students in Physical Education

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THE PROBLEM:

This year has been monumental as social justice issues, specifically racism towards Black people in America, has been brought to the forefront. With the spotlight on racism, several groups, including SHAPE America, have issued statements to support anti-racism.

However, statements without actions are of little value, especially when it involves the lives of Black Americans.



Research Summary:

The purpose of this study was to raise awareness of the lack of inclusion of Black voices and considerations for the development of Black youth in the design and implementation of physical education (PE) standards. According to the authors' research, the current SHAPE America standards, which are commonly used by both K-12 PE and physical education teacher education (PETE) programs, promote whiteness. The authors' research suggests that this does not align with the diverse youth population, and therefore, does not meet the needs of the majority of current students.

Conclusion:

In this study, the authors provide new standards that are socially just and include Black voices. There are a total of eight standards ranging in topics from "Describe the enslavement, Jim Crowe, and systemic racism" to "Implement Holistic Instructional Strategies." The authors recommend that PETE programs use these standards to train future PE teachers; however, K-12 PE programs should also integrate these standards. By implementing these standards, PE is taking a stance with anti-racism.

Key Takeaway:

This study illustrates the need for socially just standards in PE. It is recommended to read the entire article to understand the unjust history of PE standards and the steps that are necessary to become a field that not only makes socially just statements but implements just actions. Please refer to Table 2 in the article to read all of the socially just PE standards.