Congratulations to all of the physical education professionals who fit, or aspire to be included in, the tribute accorded in the most recent edition of the Shape of the Nation Report. The report will tell you what you may already know about your own state, but it will also give you information about what is happening elsewhere throughout the country. It is the latest resource provided by NASPE to help keep you informed and provide support for your advocacy efforts.

If you haven’t had the opportunity to check out what is available for your use, I highly recommend you browse through the NASPE website (www.naspeinfo.org). One helpful and ever-expanding content area under the “Popular Resources” section is the Advocacy Toolkit.

The toolkit is designed to give you easy access to articles, position statements, research data and other resources that you can refer to for planning and supporting your advocacy program. In each of the sections of the Advocacy Toolkit, you will find links to a library of material.

For example, click on the “Advocating for Quality Physical Education” link and you will see a chart that has at least seven links to position statements and resources for defining Quality Physical Education (QPE), and an equal number of links to support the correlation between

“Despite all the variables, the Shape of the Nation Report does reveal one truth with absolute clarity: that in every state and every school, there are still men and women who do care about the shape of our nation’s children and adolescents and they work every day to improve their students’ lives and health. This report shows just a fraction of the work that these dedicated individuals undertake, and is a testament to their progress.”

2012 Shape of the Nation Report:
Status of Physical Education in the USA

NASPE stands ready to help with your Advocacy Efforts

By
Roger S. Jackson
Michigan AHPERD Executive Director
NASPE Public Policy Advisory Committee Chair
academic achievement and physical education.

The “Information for Parents on Quality Physical Education” link will give you a variety of tools to use not just for educating parents, but also for self-assessing the status of your program. One of the biggest concerns today is the way that physical educators are being evaluated by instruments that were mainly designed for core subjects. You will find documents related to Physical Education Teacher Evaluation that may help align the evaluation instrument that your district/state is using to evaluate your subject area.

Some helpful ideas can also be found in previous “Advocacy in Action” articles that are archived on the site. For example, Greg Bert’s article from the January/February 2012 edition, “What are YOU doing for physical education today,” will give you a very useful and practical list of ideas for educating people in your community on the value of physical education.

On the Advocacy Toolkit page, you also notice a link to the Government Relations section where there is information regarding national issues that NASPE and AAHPERD are encouraging you to get involved in. You can also find a direct link on the AAHPERD homepage (www.aahperd.org) to the AAHPERD Advocacy Legislative Action Center. You will be able to check out updates on current issues, look up information regarding elected officials who you can contact from any state, sign up for action E-list updates, and find links to local media resources to help get your message out to the public.

Don’t hesitate to contact the Government Relations staff to help you find information about a specific topic that you need to address. AAHPERD, NASPE, and your state AHPERD are there to assist you!

Advocacy has to be an ongoing process. It cannot just exist as a singular event. Many years ago I heard someone say that, “There is no such thing as status-quo, you are either getting better or you’re getting worse.” While some may not agree with that statement, I have found it to be true. If you don’t work to continually improve, you will fall behind, and the perceived value of your product declines.

Take advantage of what is out there to help you improve your advocacy efforts!

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2012 Shape of the Nation Report

The Shape of the Nation Report provides a current picture of physical education in the American education system. At a time when the First Lady is highlighting the obesity epidemic among our youth and the role that schools can play, physical education should be given a priority in public and education policy.

The Shape of the Nation Report is based on a survey of physical education coordinators in all 50 state education agencies and the District of Columbia.

For further information, contact Carly Braxton at cbraxton@aahperd.org or 703-476-3476.

www.naspeinfo.org/shapeofthenation