

Curriculum Fundamentals

Audio Descriptive Text

Title: Chapter 3. Using the HECAT; Curriculum Fundamentals. Images from HECAT document showing forms and text coming from Chapter 5. Active Child icon.

Video Summary

- Chapter 5 is used to score curricula based on seven fundamentals: curriculum design, learning objectives, teacher guidance and preparation, instructional strategies and materials, teaching health skills, student assessment, and promoting healthy norms.
- When reviewing a comprehensive health education (CHE) curriculum, reviewers also score its continuity and uniformity.

Audio Script

This chapter will help you analyze and score characteristics that are fundamental to the review of any curriculum, including:

- Curriculum design,
- Learning objectives,
- Teacher guidance and preparation,
- Instructional strategies and materials,
- Teaching health skills,
- Student assessment, and
- Promoting healthy norms.

For each fundamental area, reviewers check each criterion that applies to the curriculum under review. Adding the total number of checks makes up the summary score for each fundamental area. Recorded notes and comments are used to justify scores and inform group discussions and decisions.

Let's do an example. Our review team has determined that our health education curriculum meets three of the four items under Curriculum Design, so the Curriculum Design Score is "3." This score is then transferred to the Overall Summary Forms, along with all other scores in this section.

This chapter can also help analyze the fundamentals of a comprehensive health education curriculum, abbreviated CHE. A comprehensive health education curriculum:

- Is broad in scope and content;
- Addresses numerous health problems, issues, or topics;
- Focuses on more than one grade level; and
- Includes a wide range of learning activities to address multiple health outcomes.

When reviewing a comprehensive health education curriculum, assess the criteria in the first seven fundamental areas to determine if each is met for most or all of the topics and grade groups. Then, complete the additional fundamental analysis, Continuity and Uniformity of the CHE Curriculum.

Remember, a curriculum has to meet expectations for understanding, usefulness, completeness, relevance, and sound educational practice. Completing the curriculum fundamentals analysis will make sure any curriculum meets these expectations.

Now, let's take a moment to check your knowledge on getting started using the HECAT, preliminary curriculum considerations and fundamentals by answering a few questions.