

AAHE/SOPHE UNIFICATION
SOPHE-RELATED QUESTIONS:

1. Where will the headquarters of the SOPHE/AAHE organization be located?

The location of the combined AAHE/ SOPHE headquarters will be in Washington, D.C.

2. Who will staff the organization once the AAHE disengagement is complete?

The operational responsibilities will be assumed by the current SOPHE staff. SOPHE's Chief Executive Officer, Elaine Auld, MPH, MCHES, will serve as CEO of the combined organization. No AAHE staff will move to the merged organization.

3. How will the modified merger with AAHE affect SOPHE members and services?

For SOPHE members, the services will not be diminished in any way. There is the potential that services may be increased. As the negotiations proceed between the two organizations, there is the possibility that there will be more student scholarships, additional publications, and other new resources that will further the research and practice of health education faculty, practitioners and students.

4. Will SOPHE change its focus from public health to school health?

SOPHE has addressed programs, services and advocacy for health educators employed in communities, worksites, government, health care organizations, as well as schools for many years. Schools represent a very important site for health education of the nation's 53 million young people, and 4 million teachers and professional staff in the approximately 129,000 (K-12) schools across the country. Stronger ties must be forged between public health and school health, which can be facilitated by the unification of AAHE and SOPHE members.

5. What school health-related services will be expanded in SOPHE?

It is anticipated that SOPHE's Children, Adolescent and School Health Community of Practice, one of SOPHE's special interest groups, would expand with an increase in school health educators and develop into additional, more specialized "Communities of Practice" within SOPHE. SOPHE has a significant number of presentations on school health at its national meetings and a wide range of articles on youth/school health in its journals. SOPHE has strongly supported quality assurance for the health education profession and is open to learning more from our AAHE colleagues about how to maintain NCATE quality assurance for school health professionals.

6. What expenses will SOPHE incur related to the modified merger?

To date as SOPHE has moved through the due diligence process, the major SOPHE expenses have related to Board and staff travel to meetings, staff time, and periodic legal counsel. Future expenditures will depend on the growth in membership and/or expanded services, which must be ultimately approved by the SOPHE Board of Trustees.

7. Will SOPHE change its name or bylaws?

As members of AAHE join SOPHE, it is anticipated that the organization will change and be modified, as with any dynamic, member-led organization. If any structural or name changes are recommended by the expanded membership in SOPHE, it will require bylaws and legal changes, which must be voted on by the membership. Probably the most sensitive issue is the potential change of SOPHE's name. It is not without precedent as SOPHE did change its name in 1969 from the Society for Public Health Educators to the Society for Public Health Education.

8. How have SOPHE leaders consulted with SOPHE members about this potential change and/or kept them informed?

SOPHE has discussed the “modified merger” concept at all SOPHE Midyear and Annual Meetings since 2009; annual meetings of SOPHE Past-presidents; Board of Trustees and Executive Committee meetings and retreats; SOPHE *News & Views* newsletter; and the SOPHE website. Additionally, member feedback was solicited in the 2011 spring membership survey, which was very positive.