



NASPE STARS

Frequently Asked Questions



1. What does STARS stand for?

STARS is not an acronym, it is a recognition program. It is the name of NASPE's national recognition program designed to honor outstanding physical education programs. STARS stands for quality physical education.

2. Is there an application fee? Is there any cost to our department/school?

Yes. The fee for STARS is \$150.00, which is used to offset the cost of administering the review process. The cost for the SuperSTARS varies based on a few factors. An initial \$150.00 fee is required for SuperSTARS. Additional fees (a minimum of \$850.00 per reviewer per day) will be assessed based on expenses of the on-site visit by the representative(s) of the review team, the number of reviewers, number of teachers and days required to complete the review.

3. Is this an individual teacher award, like the NASPE Teacher of the Year program?

No. STARS recognizes school physical education programs rather than individual teachers. If there are three physical education teachers in a school physical education department, then all three teachers cooperate to submit the required documentation to reflect the entire program. The cooperation and contribution of all members of the physical education department is necessary to conduct a quality program, assess the program, and provide the documentation necessary to review. Review the criteria chart and teacher packet to note those criterion which indicate representative documentation from all teachers in the department

4. Can one member of our department elect to not participate in the process? Can our department leave any member out of the process?

No. This program is intended to recognize the quality of your school's entire physical education program. If there is a weak link in the program, that needs to be addressed and corrected instead of omitted or ignored. Experience is showing that this process helps to increase team work in the department and strengthen the program regardless of whether or not STARS recognition is achieved.

5. Who can apply for a STARS award?

Any elementary school, middle school, junior high school, high school, or multi-level school, public or private, and American schools abroad can apply. The department chairperson or a teacher in the physical education department can serve as the "contact person" and can submit the portfolio of evidence to show how each criterion is met. However, the cooperation and contributions of all members of the physical education department is necessary to conduct a quality program, assess the program, and provide the documentation necessary for review. Review the criteria chart to note those criterion which indicate representative documentation from all teachers in the department.

6. What if my school's grade range covers two levels such as elementary and middle school? What if we are a K-8 school, 6-12 school, or some other non-traditional school structure?

When your program works with two different levels, you must make two applications and submit evidence for each level. Or your program can elect to apply only at one level (e.g., K-4 is elementary).

7. Should we collect every piece of evidence/documentation that we possibly can and send copies of that in for every criterion?

Too much evidence/documentation may result in being difficult for the reviewers to locate and remember the information you've provided. Provide only the pieces of evidence required for each criterion (see Criteria Chart for required evidence.) If you have numerous pieces of evidence for one criterion, please select one or two items that best meet the criterion. Summarize additional items in the narrative to enhance your evidence. Save space by avoiding duplications such as entering a blank form as documentation and the same form, completed as an example.

8. Can we send copies of student work or student records?

Yes. Copies of student work are required as "examples" for some criterion. However, be very careful about privacy laws and delete student last names from student work and teacher records from the documents used.

9. What if my school can't meet some of the criteria?

Each school is allowed a score of zero on up to three criteria, however no more than one zero can be earned in any one category (see Application Instructions for full details.)

10. What if we can't think of any evidence to provide to show that we meet a criterion?

Contact the NASPE STARS Project Manager by email at stars@aahperd.org for assistance. Your questions are welcomed to ensure that this experience goes smoothly for your teachers.

11. When and where will our program be recognized nationally?

Programs that achieve STARS recognition will be honored at the AAHPERD National Convention immediately following your submission date. This convention typically falls in late March-early April. The NASPE Hall of Fame banquet is the official recognition ceremony for STARS schools and other NASPE award winners. We hope that one or more of your department and administration will plan to attend the national convention and will be able to attend this banquet.

12. What if no one from our school can attend the national convention?

Your school will still be acknowledged as a STARS school at the Hall of Fame banquet even if a representative cannot attend. All award materials will be mailed to you following the convention.

14. If we apply, are we guaranteed to be recognized as a STARS school?

No, applying does not guarantee that you meet all criteria for recognition. If your program cannot adequately document the required evidence to earn an average score of 1.5 or higher you will not receive STARS recognition on that application attempt. However, you will receive

valuable feedback about your program and have the option to resubmit any low scoring criteria within 18 months of your initial submission date (see Resubmission Process for full details.) The detailed report you will receive will provide important information useful in gaining support for program improvement.

13. When can we apply for the SuperSTARS level?

Any school earning an average score of 2.5 or higher on their STARS efolio is eligible to apply for SuperSTARS. Go to the Apply for STARS link for more details.

16. How is SuperSTARS different from STARS?

SuperSTARS is a higher level of achievement in the NASPE STARS program. The criteria for SuperSTARS go beyond the STARS level and provide opportunity for schools to describe unique and innovative aspects of the physical education program. The requirements include the preparation of a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates how the school meets the SuperSTARS criteria. An on-site visit is also required for and is scheduled for schools whose portfolio receive a score of at least 90% in each of four categories.

17. When must a school re-apply to maintain continuous STARS status?

STARS status is valid for five years. If a school wants to maintain continuous STARS status they must apply the October 15 deadline of the fourth year of its current STARS status. If a STARS expiration date is 2015, the school must re-submit a new efolio by October 15, 2014.