Who developed National Standards for Family & Consumer Sciences?

The National Association of State Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences (NASAFACS), an affiliate of the Family and Consumer Sciences Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), began development of national standards for family and consumer sciences in May, 1995. The standards project celebrated the diversity of state philosophies and systems of educational delivery while unifying states behind a common set of curriculum standards.

The resulting work became a powerful tool for showcasing the evolution of the field from its previous identity as Home Economics to the current Family and Consumer Sciences Education. The National Standards provided significant direction for the field, underscoring the move away from technical homemaking skills and toward a much more holistic focus on personal, family, societal, and workplace issues.

For a decade, the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education provided a strong, clear conceptualization and common direction for Family and Consumer Sciences Education at local, state, and national levels. In May, 2005, NASAFACS initiated a project to update the National Standards.

Recommendations for changes were gathered from a variety of stakeholders. Over one thousand educators, subject area specialists, and representatives of agencies, organizations, business and industry took part in a highly participatory review process. Work groups chaired by NASAFACS leaders analyzed feedback and updated standards and competencies to create the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Second Edition (NASAFACS, 2008).

The National Standards, 2nd Edition reconfirms the vision and mission of Family and Consumer Sciences Education, while reaffirming the vital role of Family and Consumer Sciences instruction in ongoing education and workplace reform for 21st century living.

Vision: Family and Consumer Sciences Education empowers individuals and families across the life span to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse global society. The unique focus is on families, work, and their interrelationships.

Mission: The mission of Family and Consumer Sciences Education is to prepare students for family life, work life, and careers in Family and Consumer Sciences by providing opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed...