

What is the HECAT?

Audio Descriptive Text

Title: Chapter 1. Introduction; What is the HECAT? Report cover of CDC's Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT). Images from the HECAT document. Active Child icon related to health education scope and sequence. Report and brochure covers for HECAT. CDC logo.

Video Summary

- The HECAT is a set of guidance documents, appraisal tools, and resources to conduct a thorough and consistent analysis of health education curricula.
- It presents a systematic process to analyze priorities through the use of scoring tools.
- You can also use the HECAT to identify priorities, health outcomes, and course objectives needed for a K-12 health education scope and sequence.

Audio Script

The HECAT is a set of guidance documents, appraisal tools, and resources to conduct a thorough and consistent analysis of health education curricula. Your HECAT analysis results can help you to select, develop, or enhance new or existing packaged health education curricula.

You can also conduct a HECAT analysis to improve or revise your locally-developed health education curriculum.

The HECAT presents a systematic process to analyze these priorities through the use of scoring tools and includes:

- Essential background information and instructions;
- Templates for recording descriptive information for use in the curriculum review process;
- Tools for evaluating the accuracy, acceptability, feasibility, and affordability of curriculum materials;
- Guidance on assessing fundamentals of a learning curriculum, and
- Modules on specific health topics.

You can also use the HECAT to identify priorities, health outcomes, and course objectives needed for a k-12 health education scope and sequence.

The HECAT was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with an advisory panel of health education experts in the fields of:

- School health education;
- Public and school health education practice;
- Health education standards and assessment;
- Curriculum design and classroom instruction; and
- Health risk behavioral research and practice.

Let's get started by examining the characteristics of an effective health education curriculum and later, the *National Health Education Standards*.