



Justification Toolkit

Welcome!

Each year, thousands of health and physical educators come together at the [SHAPE America National Convention & Expo](#) — the “can’t miss” professional development event for HPE professionals.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2021 convention — originally scheduled for Baltimore — will be a fully virtual event held on the same dates, April 13-17.

This is your chance to get the unmatched, high-quality professional development that our national convention is known for — while saving money with lower registration rates and no convention-related travel costs!

Don't miss out on your opportunity to:

- Learn from experienced health & PE teachers and other industry experts;
- Select from 100+ hours of professional development on a broad range of health & PE topics;
- Maximize your learning with full access to all sessions for 45 days after the event; and
- Share ideas with other health and physical educators while building your professional network.

If you need administrative approval in order to attend, follow these 3 steps:

1. Review the **Tips for Speaking With Your Supervisor**.
2. Develop talking points using the **Needs/Benefits Table**.
3. Customize the **Template Letter** and send it to your supervisor to set up a one-on-one meeting.



I hope you'll join us in April!



Stephanie Morris
SHAPE America CEO

Tips for Speaking With Your Supervisor

Follow these 5 Steps

1. Request an appointment to speak with your school principal/supervisor.
2. Use the Needs/Benefits Table to match the benefits of attending to specific needs within your school/district. Once the convention program is available online, select sessions you plan to attend and share how they align with your school's strategic goals or improvement plan.
3. Use your most recent evaluation to address areas you could improve upon by attending the virtual convention.
4. Review our [list of funding ideas](#) and select options to discuss with your principal.
5. Offer to hold a training session for your colleagues after the virtual convention so you can share new tactics and best practices with those who did not attend.

Needs/Benefits Table

School District's Needs	Virtual Convention Attendee Benefits
<p>Ensure all students are given the best opportunity to meet local, state and national standards for health and physical education (HPE).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discover dynamic ideas to create and deliver a standards-based curriculum. ✓ Learn best practices for creating an inclusive environment in health and physical education class. ✓ Explore the latest assessment tools for measuring how students are progressing toward achieving HPE standards, whether you are teaching remotely or in person.
<p>Create active learning environments that can positively affect a broad range of students' social, health, behavioral, and academic needs, whether using in-person instruction, distance learning, or hybrid learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Get the latest research on the effects and benefits of social and emotional learning (SEL) on students. ✓ Learn how to create positive learning environments that have caring teacher-student relationships at their center. ✓ Identify new instructional practices and strategies to help you teach, model, and reinforce SEL skills, whether you are teaching remotely or in person.
<p>Help students become better learners, while considering issues of equity and accessibility as well as the need for a trauma-sensitive learning environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learn teaching strategies that consider equity, inclusion and accessibility and provide considerations for creating a trauma-sensitive learning environment. ✓ Gain strategies for increasing students' physical activity levels, which can lead to student success, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increases in academic achievement and test scores; ▪ Positive associations with attention, concentration and on-task behavior; ▪ Improved classroom behavior and fewer disciplinary issues.
<p>Develop expertise in differentiated instruction to meet the learning needs of all students, whether using in-person instruction, distance learning, or hybrid learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gain strategies to effectively address the learning needs of all students. ✓ Acquire a sharper focus on teaching the essential ideas and skills of various content areas. ✓ Learn new ways to assess, reflect and adjust content and the learning process to meet student needs. ✓ Learn best practices for responding to individual student differences that can lead to a more inclusive learning environment.

Needs/Benefits Table

School District's Needs	Virtual Convention Attendee Benefits
<p>Better understand the whole-child approach to education to ensure students are healthy and successful academically.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learn strategies for implementing the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using a skills-based approach to deliver health education and promote healthy literacy in schools; ▪ Developing a comprehensive school physical activity program, which includes a well-designed PE program and opportunities for physical activity before, during and after school. ✓ Gather resources to implement a skills-based curriculum that will lead students to make healthy choices.
<p>Understand how to effectively advocate for your HPE program and maximize opportunities to receive funding under the <i>Every Student Succeeds Act</i> (ESSA) federal education law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learn how to secure funds and support for HPE programs in your school district. ✓ Identify new communication tactics and key messages to share with various education and community stakeholders to garner support for HPE. ✓ Discover strategies for coalition building and creating successful partnerships in support of HPE.
<p>Explore the latest technologies to improve student engagement and find ways to capitalize on existing school technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Try the latest products, services and technology tools geared toward HPE and physical activity in schools and learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximize student engagement using modified equipment for students with disabilities; ▪ Create a personalized, tech-assisted learning environment; ▪ Collect meaningful formative data to assess student learning; ▪ Manage student data related to standards-based curriculum objectives.

Template Letter

<Date>:

Dear <Name of Principal or Supervisor>,

The global pandemic has illuminated the need to prioritize students' physical, mental, and social-emotional health – and research continues to showcase the importance of health and physical education for all students.

I would like to meet with you to discuss an upcoming professional development opportunity that will expand my teaching skills in this COVID-19 era and lead to better learning for all students.

On April 13-17, 2021, SHAPE America will hold its National Convention & Expo for health and physical educators. Due to the pandemic, the convention will be a fully virtual event.

As an attendee, I would learn best practices for health and physical education and gain valuable insights from experienced teachers – including SHAPE America's Teachers of the Year.

This virtual convention includes 125+ educational sessions, which I'll also have access to for 45 days following the event. This unmatched, high-quality professional development will help me to:

- Meet local, state and national standards for health and physical education;
- Create active learning environments that can positively affect a broad range of students' social, health, behavioral, and academic needs;
- Implement a whole-child approach at our school which incorporates social and emotional learning; and
- Meet the needs of *all* students through differentiated instruction and implementation of a trauma-sensitive learning environment;

The educational sessions are research- and evidence-based and incorporate the most recent findings on best practices. And, because the national convention will be virtual, there is a significant cost savings.

I would appreciate the time to discuss this professional development opportunity and how you can support my attendance.

Sincerely,

<Full Name>

<Title>