National Commission for
Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

NCHEC
1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303
Whitehall, PA 18052
Phone: (888) 624-3248
Fax: (800) 813-0727
http://www.nchec.org
NCHEC’s Mission

- Enhance the professional practice of Health Education by promoting and sustaining a credentialed body of Health Education Specialist
- To meet this mission
  - Certifies health education specialists
  - Promotes professional development
  - Strengthens professional preparation and practice
NCHEC’s Structure: Non-Profit Agency

Board of Commissioners

- Division Board for Certified Health Education Specialists
- Division Board for Professional Development
- Division Board for Professional Preparation & Practice
- Executive Director
- Office Staff
History of NCHEC: Highlights

- **1970s**
  - National Tasks Force Developed
  - Role Verification Competencies established

- **1980s**
  - NCHEC Incorporated
  - Charter Certification

- **1990s**
  - First CHES exam given
  - CHES exam offered twice a year

- **2000s**
  - 2002: over 8,000 certified, 2005: CUP results released,
    2007: CHES Exam revised based on New Framework
NCHEC’s Recent Accomplishments

- 2008: CHES exam receives “Gold Standard” NCCA Accreditation
- 2009: The Health Education Job Analysis Project (HEJA) is completed
- 2010: HEJA results released by NCHEC, SOPHE, & AAHE
- 2010: Release of revised publications based on the updated Competencies
  - A Competency-based Framework for Health Education Specialists 2010
NCHEC’s Recent Accomplishments

- 2011 Revised CHES exam offered with updated Competencies and Sub-competencies
- 2011 Implementation of the advanced-level certification, MCHES
- 2011 Inaugural MCHES exam is offered simultaneously with the CHES exam
Credentialing: Description

**Individuals**
- Licensing
- Certification
- Registration

**Academic Institutions**
- Accreditation

[Image of NCHEC logo: Credentialing Excellence in Health Education]
Quality Assurance Mechanisms

Licensure – Government

Certification – Professional

Registration – State & Local

Accreditation – Program
CHES Certification

- Certification developed for:
  - Health education profession
  - Mastery of the fundamental skills
  - Across all practice settings
  - Voluntary credential
What is a CHES

- A CHES is an individual that has:
  - Met academic eligibility
  - Passed a written examination
  - Has an ongoing commitment to continuing education and professional development
Benefits of Certification

- Establishes national standard
- Attests to individual’s knowledge and skills
- Assists employers in identifying qualified practitioners
- Promotes sense of pride and accomplishment
- Promotes continued professional development
CHES Exam Registrations

Six Year Comparison of Number of Exam Candidates Registered

2005: 1198
2006: 1380
2007: 1552
2008: 1526
2009: 1664
2010: 1697
## Responsibilities, Competencies & Sub-Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CUP 2006</th>
<th>HEJA 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Areas of Responsibility</td>
<td>7 Areas of Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Competencies</td>
<td>34 Competencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163 Sub-competencies</td>
<td>223 Sub-competencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 82 Entry</td>
<td>• 162 Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 81 Advanced</td>
<td>• 61 Advanced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Framework for Health Education Specialists -2010

- Broad practice standards
- Measurable performance
- Used for curriculum development
- Used to evaluate continuing education programs
Health Education Specialists: Seven Areas of Responsibilities

- Assess
- Plan
- Implement
- Evaluate/Research
- Administer
- Communicate/Advocate
- Act as a Resource

Health Education Specialists
Seven Areas of Responsibilities

Assess
Plan
Implement
Evaluate/Research
Administer
Communicate/Advocate
Act as a Resource

NCHEC
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.
Credentialed Excellence in Health Education
CHES Eligibility

- Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral Degree from an accredited institution, \textbf{AND}

- A \textbf{major} in: health education, community health education, public health education, school health education, \textbf{OR}

- 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) specific to course work related to areas of responsibility and competencies
Pre-Screening/Review Service

- Optional service
  - Not sure whether or not you are eligible?
- Transcript review
- Fee
The CHES Exam

- Competency-based pencil-and-paper exam
- 165 multiple-response questions
- Identifies each Area of Responsibility
- Offered at over 120 testing locations nationwide
- Study companion available
The CHES Examination

Examination Specifications based on HEJA-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Plan Health Education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Implement Health Education</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Serve as a Health Education Resource Person</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Exam</td>
<td>October Exam</td>
<td>Non-Student Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Registration</td>
<td>1st Registration</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline: Dec 1st</td>
<td>Deadline: Jun 1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Registration</td>
<td>2nd Registration</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline: Jan 2nd</td>
<td>Deadline: Jul 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Registration</td>
<td>3rd Registration</td>
<td>$280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline: Feb 1st</td>
<td>Deadline: Aug 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Deadline:</td>
<td>Final Deadline:</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 1st</td>
<td>Sept 1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) Credential

1st MCHES EXAM: October 15, 2011

ELIGIBILITY:

CHES
Minimum of the past 5 continuous years active status

Non-CHES
Or CHES <5 yrs active status

Master’s degree or higher in Health Education
OR
Master’s degree or higher with transcript reflecting 25 semester hours addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility

5 yrs experience as a health education specialist
• CV/Resume
• 2 letters of recommendation
MCHES Fees & Recertification

- MCHES Exam fees: range from $250-$390 based on type of application and submission deadline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st deadline</th>
<th>2nd deadline</th>
<th>3rd deadline</th>
<th>Final deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCHES Exam (CHES)</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td>$340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHES Exam (Non-CHES)</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td>$340</td>
<td>$390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The MCHES Examination

- 1st offered – October 15, 2011
- Style & Structure
  - Provided at the same sites where CHES exam offered
  - 3 hours to complete
  - 165 multiple choice questions; 150 scored, 15 pilot
  - Stand alone & scenario-based multiple choice items
  - Covers all 7 Areas of Responsibility; there are 61 MCHES only sub-competencies
## MCHES Examination Specifications

Examination Specifications based on HEJA-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Plan Health Education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Implement Health Education</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Serve as a Health Education Resource Person</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHES/MCHES Exam Schedule

Twice Each Year

April

October
CHES/MCHES Certification Requirements

- Pass written examination
- Annual $55.00 renewal fee
- 75 hours of continuing education with a five-year cycle
- Recertify at the fifth year if renewal fees are paid and continuing education requirements have been met
CHES/MCHES Continuing Education

- Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH)
  - 75 are required for the five year recertification
CECH Categories

- **Category I**
  - Events offered by providers
  - Pre-approved by NCHEC
  - Minimum 45 CECH

- **Category II**
  - Events offered by providers
  - Not pre-approved by NCHEC
  - Maximum 30 CECH

- **MCHES**
  - Required to earn 30 CECH directly related to the advanced-level Sub-competencies from Category I and/or II
Employment Opportunities

Check out Job Postings at www.nchec.org
Quick Links Job Postings or
http://www.nchec.org/news/docs/jobs.htm
NCHEC: Future Goals

- Market CHES and MCHES certification to employers
  - Provide sample job descriptions
- Enhance professional development for CHES and MCHES
  - Assistance to Designated Providers
- Advocate for third-party reimbursement of health education specialists
- Require university accreditation for CHES exam eligibility
Did You Know?

- Health Education Job Outlook
  - Recognized as a specific occupation—DOL
  - Employment projection—faster than average growth

- Many employers prefer CHES/MCHES
  - Hiring and promoting health education specialists
  - Check out job postings with CHES/MCHES preferred or required at [http://www.nchec.org/news/docs/jobs.htm](http://www.nchec.org/news/docs/jobs.htm)

- CHES designation required for health educators
  - Arkansas, New Jersey—other states to follow
For More Information

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Brochures | Exam Application | Revised Framework | Study Guide