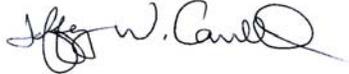




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Ken Slentz 
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SUBJECT: National Arts Standards Revision Update

DATE: February 6, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards is a partnership of organizations and states that will lead the revision of the 1994 National Standards for Arts Education, to help guide curriculum designers, teacher training programs, funders, and federal and state policy makers in their Pre-K-12 arts education decision-making. The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) plans to complete its work and release new, national arts education standards in early 2013 at which point the Regents could consider possible adoption. The standards will describe what students should know and be able to do as a result of a quality curricular arts education program. NCCAS is committed to developing a next generation of arts education standards that will build on the foundation created by the 1994 document, support the 21st-century needs of students and teachers, help ensure that all students are college and career ready, and affirm the place of arts education in a balanced core curriculum.

Background Information

NCCAS Partner Organizations are: American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE), Arts Education Partnership (AEP), Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), The College Board, National Association for Music Education (NAfME), National Art Education Association (NAEA), National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), and the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE).

NCCAS will make the creation of the new arts standards an inclusive process, with input from a broad range of arts educators and decision-makers. The revised standards will be grounded in arts education best practices drawn from the United States and abroad, as well as a comprehensive review of developmental research. The College Board, in partnership with NCCAS, has released five new research reports designed to support the revision of the National Arts Education Standards. These reports and more information about NCCAS are available at <http://nccas.wikispaces.com>.

Highlights

- In Fall 2011, NCCAS hired a project director, named writing team chairs, and launched standards writing teams. Standards writing teams of 10 content experts for each of the discipline areas of dance, music, theatre and visual arts were developed from a pool of over 350 applications received online (26 from NYS). Each discipline writing team includes a balance of members across specific areas of expertise, geography, diversity, and experience.
- In early November 2011, New York State was one of 31 State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) members to meet with the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCASS) leadership and the chairs of the standards writing teams to explore issues of importance to the creation of voluntary National Arts Standards. NCASS, SEADAE, and guests discussed how best to address Media Arts in the next iteration of standards, examine the elements of a learning framework, and assist with the vetting of applications for standards writing teams.
- NCCAS Leadership and the chairs met in January 2012 to finalize work on a learning framework that will guide the writers, and to discuss the project's timeline and plans to include media arts as a discrete fifth arts discipline in the next generation standards. A Media Arts Standards writing team was established. The meeting included a streaming public Q&A period on January 24. Links to the interactive blog and available video streams are posted on the NCCAS website at <http://nccas.wikispaces.com/Framing+Meeting+-+Reston%2C+VA+-+Jan+2012>.

In creating the next generation of core arts standards, the primary goal of NCCAS is to help classroom educators better implement and assess standards-based arts instruction in their schools. Toward that goal, the revised arts standards will address 21st-century skills, guide the preparation of the next generation of arts educators, and embrace new technology, pedagogy, and changing modes of learning.

To take full advantage of today's digital information tools, the new arts standards will exist in an online "evergreen" format, allowing for periodic, scheduled reviews and updates, and wiki environments where student work, lesson plans, and new research can be posted to support standards-based teaching and learning.

NCCAS Timeline

It is expected that the creation of the first draft of the new arts standards will take about six months, with additional time for public review and revision in early summer 2012. A paper version will be issued in early 2013, with the expectation that an interactive online version will follow in the near future.

Next Steps

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) plans to complete its work and release new, national arts education standards in early 2013 at which point the Regents could consider possible adoption. Department staff will provide periodic updates as this work progresses.