

**Instruction**

**Board Policy Amendment Adoption May 16, 2006**

**BP 6142.6**

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**Visual and Performing Arts Education**

The Board of Trustees recognizes that by studying visual and performing arts, students learn to develop initiative, discipline, perceptual abilities, and critical and creative thinking skills that extend to all areas of life. It is also recognized that in our multicultural state, the arts build bridges and help students broaden their perspective and understand their world and the diverse cultural influences that surround them. The Board believes that a comprehensive arts education program should be an integral part of the basic education offered to all students in all grades. The Board encourages all teachers to use the arts to facilitate learning in the core subjects they teach, including history, language arts, geography, math, and science.

The district's comprehensive arts education program shall include a written sequential curriculum in dance, music, theater and visual arts based on the California Visual and Performing Arts Framework for Public Schools. Scheduling of visual and performing arts instruction should be designed to insure equitable access for all students, during and after the school day. Students shall have the opportunity to continually improve artistic skills, create and/or perform original works, acquire an appreciation of arts from many eras and cultures and develop an intellectual basis for making aesthetic judgments.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall encourage the integration of community arts resources into the school program. Students shall have opportunities to attend musical and theatrical performances, observe the work of accomplished artists and work directly with visiting artists.

The Board supports a collaboration with community arts agencies through the Local Arts Education Partnership Program and is committed to providing the necessary time, staff, and financial resources in order to fulfill the district's part in this school-community arts agency partnership. In addition, community resources including business as well as parent involvement, shall be key partners with schools to provide funds and resources for arts programs.

The Superintendent or designee, shall appoint a local steering committee to work with the district on this program. This committee shall represent the ethnic and cultural composition of the district and provide a balance between the education and the arts communities.

The Board acknowledges the importance of ongoing professional development for teachers in arts education. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that certificated staff has opportunities for ongoing training for classroom teachers and art specialists to become knowledgeable about curriculum developments in the arts and strategies for delivering a comprehensive arts education program to students.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a budgeted plan, establish procedures to implement Board policies, and provide for the ongoing review, evaluation and development of the District's arts education program.