

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Proposed Resolution on Arts Education
DRAFT 4
June 2004

WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes education in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic education for all pupils in prekindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, The arts are a recognized part of a quality education, as evidenced by the adoption of the Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards, by their inclusion in the California Master Plan for Education, and in the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and

WHEREAS, the value and benefits of arts education has been extensively documented through research*; and

WHEREAS, Instruction in the basic skills and knowledge of the arts develops critical and creative thinking and perceptual abilities that extend to all careers and areas of life, including literacy; and it is recognized that in our multicultural state the arts build bridges and help pupils broaden their perspectives; and that arts education programs can help pupils understand their world and the diverse cultural influences that surround them; and

WHEREAS, The Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards* describe what each pupil should know and accomplish in the visual and performing arts, prekindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, in artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, connections, relationships, and applications; and

WHEREAS, The University of California and the California State University have instituted a policy that includes visual and performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school pupils wishing to enter the institutions of higher education of the state*; and that by 2006, all students entering the UC/CSU system must satisfy the new requirement by completing an appropriate single course in a year-long sequence in dance, music, theatre or the visual arts; and

WHEREAS, The University of California and the California State University realize the demands of a new generation of Californians seeking a quality education and recognize the critical importance of continued access to a broad array of experiences that allow students to obtain the breadth and depth of knowledge necessary for success after college; and

WHEREAS, Key factors in the success of standards-based arts education include access to all of the following:

- (a) Teacher specialists in the arts.
- (b) Clear statement of standards that define what each pupil is expected to know and accomplish in the arts at each educational level.
- (c) High-quality materials and resources, including, but not limited to, textbooks and technologies that support learning in the arts.
- (d) Adequate funding to ensure the essential preconditions for quality teaching in the arts and learning at all schools.
- (e) Appropriate facilities that support creative activities in the arts.
- (f) Assessment of pupil progress at every educational level; and

WHEREAS, Arts education programs have great potential for the future. Communication, imagination, and information are keys to economic growth, education, and a life-long appreciation of the arts. Further, jobs and careers that involve artistic expression, collaboration and creative problem solving are becoming increasingly important; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Board of Education of Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, That the Members shall acknowledge and support the development of a long-term plan that shall provide for the implementation of standards-based instruction in the visual and performing arts, prekindergarten to grade 12, inclusive; and further, shall provide for the on-going review, evaluation, and development of the District's arts education program as the budget allows.

*see appendix