

InstructionVisual and Performing Arts Education

The Board of Education recognizes that by studying visual and performing arts, students **learn to** develop critical and creative thinking skills, initiative, discipline and perceptual abilities that extend to all areas of life. **It is also recognized that in our multicultural district, the arts build bridges and help students broaden their perspective, understand their world and embrace 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 promotes artistically-rich school environments at all school sites where creative expression such as art displays and school performances are honored.**

The district's comprehensive arts education program shall include an emphasis on a well-balanced written, sequential curriculum in dance, music, theater and the visual arts based on the *Content Standards for California Public Schools*, which include the *Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards*. 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. Arts should be taught as an independent subject by qualified teachers, as well as infused within core curricula, including history, geography, language arts, mathematics, science and physical education with regular and consistent instructional time.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage the integration of community arts resources into schools. Students shall have opportunities to attend musical and theatrical performances and to observe the work of accomplished artists **and work directly with visiting artists.**

The Board supports collaboration with community arts agencies and is committed to providing the necessary time, staff and financial resources in any such community-district initiative. In addition, community resources including business shall partner with schools in providing funds and resources for arts programs.

Parent involvement and support are an integral part of a comprehensive visual and performing arts program.

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. (Education Code 8813)

The Board acknowledges the importance of ongoing professional development for teachers in arts education. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff have opportunities to become knowledgeable about curriculum developments in the arts and strategies to deliver a comprehensive visual and performing arts program to students. The Board encourages all teachers to enliven and enrich the subjects they teach through use of the **visual and performing arts.**

The Superintendent or designee should ensure that students have access to sufficient

instructional materials, equipment and facilities to support a balanced arts program; the program can be adapted to meet the unique needs of each school site.

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8810-8819.5 Arts education

8820-8830 Arts Work Visual and Performing Arts Education Program

8950-8957 California summer school of the arts

51204 Course of study designed for students' needs

51225.3 Graduation requirements

58800-58805 Specialized secondary programs

99200-99205 Subject matter projects

Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

The Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 1996

Literature for the Visual and Performing Arts, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

Prelude to Performance Assessments in the Arts, K-12, 1994

The Arts: Partnerships as a Catalyst for Educational Reform, 1994

Arts Work: A Call for Arts Education for All California Students, 1997

WEB SITES:

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

TCAP: <http://www.ucop.edu/tcap>

California Arts Council: <http://www.cac.ca.gov>

Policy Adopted: