
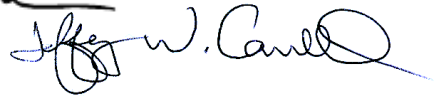


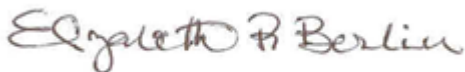


TO: P-12 Education Committee
Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Ken Wagner 
Jeffrey Cannell 

SUBJECT: Timeline for New York State Strategic Plan for the Arts

DATE: March 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

Issue for Discussion

Department staff will provide a timeline for development and approval of a New York State's Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts and the consideration of arts standards by the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS), a coalition of national arts and education organizations and media arts representatives developed new arts standards through the involvement of more than 70 writers and with the input of more than 6,000 reviewers, including several thousand from New York State. The National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) are based on *A Conceptual Framework for Arts Learning* (2012).¹ The *Framework* provides a foundation for 21st century PK-12 Arts education through research, grounding philosophy, primary goals, dynamic processes, structures, and outcomes that shape student learning and achievement in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. Through a multi-state collaborative process, the NCAS were developed to address best practices in the Arts, emerging Arts concepts, and disciplinary core ideas.

These new standards are accessible online at <http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>. The website includes supporting documents that explain the structure of the NCAS and other resources. It should be noted that the NCCAS partnered with the College Board for technical support as the Arts Standards were being written. Included on the website are seven reports from the College Board, two of which provide comparisons and areas

¹ See http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/sites/default/files/NCCAS%20%20Conceptual%20Framework_4.pdf

of alignment between the NCAS and the Common Core Standards in ELA and Mathematics.

The NCAS seek to instill arts literacy, emphasizing conceptual understanding, and reflect the actual processes in which artists engage. The standards cultivate a student's ability to carry out the three artistic processes of creating, performing and responding, along with connecting their arts learning to their lives and their communities.

In October 2014, the Board of Regents discussed the newly released NCAS and New York State's process of surveying arts teachers for their feedback concerning the new standards in relation to the current New York State Learning Standards for the Arts.

Preliminary Survey and Analysis

After the release of the final version of the National Core Arts Standards in June 2014, New York State professional arts associations worked with NYSED to develop a preliminary survey on the new standards in relation to the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts (see <http://www.nysaae.org/ncas-survey/>). The public was invited to complete the survey through various networks. Department staff, with the assistance of the arts professional associations, analyzed the responses.

Of the 878 people who began the survey, 45% completed the survey, resulting in 395 valid responses. Responders are described as follows:

- Geographic distribution:
6% Capital District, 9% Central NY, 39% Long Island, 6% Lower Hudson Valley, 7% Mid-Hudson Valley, 5% New York City, 2% North Country/Adirondacks, 7% Southern Tier and 20% Western NY
- Distribution by grade level(s) taught:
34% elementary, 18% middle-level, 44% high school, 5% higher education
- 86% described themselves as K-12 Arts Certified teachers (44% music, 41% visual arts), 9% Arts Administrators and 6% District Administrators
- Knowledge of New York State Learning Standards for the Arts:
94% very familiar, 6% vaguely familiar
- Knowledge of NCAS:
73% moderately to very familiar, 31% vaguely familiar
- 65% agreed the NCAS encompassed the NYS Learning Standards for the Arts

The majority of responder's comments expressed support for new standards. Sixty three percent of respondents suggested that New York adopt or adapt the NCAS to the State's arts education needs. The support is accompanied with concerns related to the professional development for implementation of the standards and funding required to provide professional development.

Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts

In addition to this survey analysis, a New York State Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts will be developed to guide planning, implementation and further in-depth analysis of the standards in each Arts discipline. The strategic plan will include mission and vision statements and incorporate critical components that would need to be addressed if new standards are adopted and/or existing standards are updated.

Timeline

In winter/spring, the Arts Leadership Team, a group consisting of representatives from the professional arts education associations of New York State, will begin to outline the Arts Strategic Plan. Components of the plan may include Standards, Curriculum, Professional Development to Enhance Instruction, and Materials and Resource Support. Each of the professional associations will present a preliminary proposal and strategies for completing specific objectives that relate to the disciplines of dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts. A proposed Arts Summit in summer 2015 would provide the foundational work to unify the disciplines in a single New York State Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts. See below for a proposed timeline.

- **Spring 2015** – Draft a New York Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts.
- **Summer 2015** – Present draft Strategic Plan to the Board of Regents for approval to post for public comment.
- **Fall 2015** – Present revised Strategic Plan to the Board of Regents, as well as a proposed timeline for standards adoption.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents direct Department staff to draft a Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts for Board of Regents review.