

Arts Education Highlights

Passage of Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) Legislation

Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids, called for the development of rigorous standards for students. The Colorado Department of Education engaged in a year-long process to update its academic standards in English language proficiency and ten content areas: dance, drama and theater arts; mathematics; music; reading, writing and communicating; science; social studies; visual arts; and world languages. **This solidified the four arts areas as core disciplines within the state of Colorado.**

Local School District Adoption of Standards, Curriculum and Assessment

To meet the legislative requirements in CAP4K, districts adopted standards that meet or exceed state standards, are developing and adopting revised curriculum and assessments in all ten core disciplines. **This has resulted in innovative planning and collaboration in all ten disciplines across the state.**

HB-1273 Arts Education for Workforce Development Act

This statute, signed into law in 2010, encourages all public schools to provide courses in performing and visual arts. Courses may include traditional arts classes, on-line study, internships, externships, mentor experiences, or independent study. Schools are encouraged to use innovative ways to deliver arts education, such as technology, software, and forming partnerships with other school districts, or community colleges. **The statute also provides the first state law based definitions for visual and performing arts in Colorado.**

Partnerships/Networking/Collaboration

Colorado has been nationally recognized for its commitment to a collaborative arts education support model between state agencies-Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Creative Industries, Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Community College System. Commissioner Robert Hammond serves as a member of the Colorado Creative Industries Council and encourages strong state and community partnerships. Additional arts education leadership teams include:

- Arts Education Think Tank -higher education, community partners, district and teacher leaders in all four arts content areas
- Arts Sample Curriculum Developers- arts educators, higher education, and community partners
- Arts Content Collaborative Members –arts educators, higher education and community partners
- The recent formation of the Arts Education Coalition comprised of representatives from all Colorado Arts Education Associations and Community Arts Partners

What's Next?

- Phase II of the Curriculum Sample Development Project
- Standards Implementation Begins in the 2013-2014 School Year
- Trainings and Resources from the Gifted4Arts Committee
- Ongoing Training and Resources for Standards Implementation, Educator Effectiveness and Assessment

"Logic will get you from A to B.
Imagination will take you
everywhere."

–Albert Einstein

Helpful Links:

CDE Arts Education Webpage:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/CoArts/index.asp>

Arts Education Standards:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/CoArts/StateStandards.asp>

Arts Education Guidebook:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/CoArts/ArtGuidebook.asp>

Standards Implementation Support:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standardsimplementationsupport>

Arts Curriculum Samples:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/SampleCurriculum-Samples.asp>

Assessment Resource Bank:
www.coloradopl.org/assessment

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