

Fine Arts Update



Spring 2011 Update

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■ **Arts Standards Re-Vision Process Gains Momentum**

The second writing meeting for the fine arts standards revision process was held on Feb. 15, 2011, again at the Columbus Museum of Art, with the revision writing teams previously established from around the state in attendance.



The meeting began with introductory remarks from Tom Rutan, associate director in the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Office of Curriculum and Instruction, who offered his thanks to all the participants in the process. Nancy Pistone said that she and Ed Duling, ODE arts consultants, were getting a good response from the field to the revision process.

Writers received packets of information that included an article from *Education Week* on the connection between the arts and 21st-century learning skills; another article, “Why Kids Need Art” from schoolartonline.com; the skills map from the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and a comparison grid of skills and capacities identified in recent research that students need now and in the future.

Nancy recapped the first writing meeting, with the move to a trial framework of three goal areas (*perceiving, producing/performing* and *reflecting*) and a trial structure of different grade groupings (*K-2, 3-5, 6-8* and *high school by achievement levels*).

The day’s first goal was to go back to the work performed in December and edit, fine-tune and strengthen the existing content statements that each group had reviewed. Next, the groups were asked to identify gaps in content based on current influences in the arts and education and write new statements. The writers were reminded that they were to view the standards broadly, as more specificity in the curriculum and instruction will be established at the district and classroom levels.

Concerns and comments included:

- The question of whether there should be three or four achievement levels for the high school grades;
- The use of language by writers that is more reflective of their particular arts discipline rather than following a rigid template;
- The need for revision from the 2003 standards to bring more focus, coherence and relevance to the document and to reflect advances in research, pedagogy and technology;
- The need to see the overall K-12 picture before all the gaps in content can be identified; and
- Other structural concerns for best placement within the framework of *benchmarks* or *enduring understandings*.

Writers also learned about a new curriculum resource kit, which will be available in November, entitled “Know It By Art: Ohio.” The kit has 50 lessons with questions and answers about works by Ohio artists and is designed to help students develop 21st-century skills.

■ Re-vision Writers Update Framework for Ohio’s Arts Standards

The third writing meeting for the fine arts standards revision process was held on April 5, 2011, at the Worthington Schools Education Center for the visual art and dance teams and at the Vineyard Community Center in Westerville for the music and drama teams.

The groups convened by discipline and grade clusters, received drafts of previous work and spent the morning revising and adding new content statements, paying particular attention to addressing 21st-century learning skills.

Each discipline group then came together mid-morning and were welcomed by ODE arts consultants Nancy Pistone in Worthington and Ed Duling in Westerville. They acknowledged the great emotional investment made by each of the participants and conveyed appreciation for their commitment. They noted that the groups had made great strides, but recognized that there also have been some challenges. When applicable, writers were encouraged to consult with recent revisions by other states such as Oregon, California and, in particular, Colorado, which had incorporated 21st-century skills into its work.



Nancy stated she had received feedback from some teachers in the writing groups and asked one of them, Bill Nyerges, from Solon, to speak briefly about his ideas. He distributed a one-page document he designed that helped his sub-group more readily understand and visualize the trial framework of the three strands of *perceiving*, *producing/performing* and *reflecting*. By viewing the framework as an “all-in-one” hybrid example, the group could more easily see the relationships between and among each process. At the bottom of the page were sections that could offer content elaborations, suggestions and strategies for teachers as they developed curriculum, which then could be linked to additional resources in a final online version.

The dance group was challenged by moving from the original Discipline Based Arts Education influence in the current standards and discussed with the group how they were able to translate them to the new trial framework. The general consensus was that the current art standards were still there, just embedded within the new framework with some updated labels, and that they could be traced back to the original standards if necessary.

Music and theatre groups refined content, making sure broader statements of understanding were supported by narrower ones, 21st-century skills were incorporated and technology was included. After viewing some tentative technology statements for music created by music writer Kim-Shama-Hanna of the Inventor's Hall of Fame STEM School in Akron, the groups adapted her work to their respective levels.



The next steps are for ODE staff to take the latest edits and ensure there is some consistency within the framework among the four disciplines. The ODE graphics department will assist in enhancing the final text by creating a visual model depicting the relationships among the three cognitive strands of *perceiving*, *producing/performing* and *reflecting*.

The first draft of the revised art standards will be finalized over the summer, placed online for public comment in fall 2011, and presented to statewide professional organizations.

Nancy encouraged members of the writing groups to share their progress with colleagues in their schools, districts and professional organizations as well as at statewide conferences.