Ohio | Department of Education

Fine Arts Update

Winter Update 2010-2011

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■ The ODE Division of Arts Launches Standards Re-Vision Process

The most fundamental skill of the creative person is the ability to constantly re-vision the world. Everything is subject to renewal.

ODE launched the re-visioning of Ohio's arts standards on Nov. 15 and 16, 2010, with over 60 visual and performing arts educators and advocates participating in initial focus group discussions. The two sessions held in the Columbus and Bowling Green areas drew elementary, secondary and post-secondary representation from various state regions, professional organizations and the four arts disciplines – dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art. With seven solid years of experience implementing the current standards (adopted in 2003), participants were eager to share their constructive suggestions for renewal.

Discussion was guided by questions that looked broadly at the existing standards. Participants were asked to comment on four areas: 1) **Structural**, such as organization of the current arts standards; 2) **Conceptual**, including the historical, cultural, aesthetic, critical and expressive dimensions emphasized now; 3) **Developmental**, addressing the age-appropriate level of difficulty; and 4) **Political**, including the contemporary influences on both general and arts education approaches.

Focus group members provide valuable input to re-visioning process.

To view a summary of focus group comments, open this link.

■ Columbus Museum of Art New Center for Creativity Hosts Revision Writers

Re-visioning of Ohio's fine arts standards took another productive step forward on Dec. 14, 2010, in the Columbus Museum of Art's beautiful new Center for Creativity. Some 50 educators and advocates selected from an open application process and representing

arts organizations, the four arts disciplines, K-12 grade levels and 22 Ohio counties comprised the writing groups.

Nancy Pistone discusses arts re-visioning approach with writers.

ODE consultants Nancy Pistone and Ed Duling presented a refresher on the current standards and then discussed the re-visioning approach writing groups would follow based on feedback from two statewide focus group meetings held in November.

The day's goal was to reach consensus on selecting the most valued content statements (knowledge and skills) from the current standards and eliminate those considered redundant. Additionally, the group was asked to reorganize the most valued content indicators and benchmarks into a new trial framework that reduced the five standard goal areas to three. Prior to splitting into a number of sub-groups by discipline and grade level, the writers added to focus group comments with the following issues raised:

- Regarding alignment
    - Will the arts use the same format as other subject area standards?
    - How will the revised version correlate with national standards?
- Consideration by writers that various constituencies need to understand the standards (e.g., administrators, board members, parents)
- Attention to "process" as equal in emphasis to "production and performance"

At the successful conclusion of the day's activities, participants agreed that the process worked well and they liked the direction and focus. They found that some indicators seemed to fit under more than one goal area and that each informs the others. Some suggested that visual or graphic representations may be necessary to make that point in a final iteration. In general, the high school groups were comfortable changing the 9-12 grade levels to levels of mastery (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced) to better accommodate how schools operate and courses are offered. Also, it was agreed that K-8 should be grouped as K-2, 3-5 and 6-8.

The next writing meetings are planned for February and April 2011, to prepare a draft for public comment.

Related information including the arts revision timeline, a list of writers and a comment form is available at this link.