

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Diana Suddreth
Director, Teaching & Learning

DATE: February 4-5, 2016

ACTION: 90-Day Public Review Report to the Board, Fine Arts Standards

Background:

The 90-day review for Utah's Fine Arts Standards has ended. Five public comment meetings have been held across the state. In addition, public comment has been collected through emails, telephone messages and a survey. A report on the public comment has been prepared.

Key Points:

Public comment on the draft Fine Arts Standards was largely supportive. A few minor revisions will clarify the intent of the standards.

Anticipated Action:

The Board will review the draft K-12 Fine Arts Standards in Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Art and Media Arts, review the implementation plan and direct staff to make recommended changes prior to final adoption at the March Board of Education meeting.

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Summary of 90-day Review Period for Utah Fine Arts Standards



Prepared by the
Utah State Office of Education

February 4-5, 2016

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Summary of 90-day Review Period for Utah Fine Arts Standards

Purpose and Time line of 90-day Review for Fine Arts Standards

Utah law requires that any new core standards be released to the public for a 90-day review period and that at least 3 public hearings are held throughout the state on the standards (HB 342). The 90-day review for the revision of the Utah Fine Arts Standards occurred between October 10, 2015 and January 20, 2016. During this time, feedback was collected from five public hearings and an online feedback tool.

Public Hearings on Fine Arts Standards

Five public meetings focusing on the draft of the revisions of the Fine Arts Standards were held throughout the state after approval during the September 18, 2015 Board meeting.

October 27, 2015	St. George
November 3, 2015	Salt Lake City
November 17, 2015	Logan
December 1, 2015	Roosevelt
January 5, 2016	Springville

Approximately 25 people attended.

Online Feedback Tool Data

The feedback tool was made available through a link on the USOE website. Information about standards revision, the draft standards, and the proposed timeline were also provided on the website. The online tool collected the following data:

- Location
- Primary role of the person reviewing the standards (e.g. teacher, parent, administrator, higher education faculty).
- Comments regarding the formatting of the standards, the content of the standards, and any other comments respondents wished to submit. They were also invited to suggest needed supports to teachers as the standards are adopted and implemented.
- Contact information of respondents who wish to be contacted individually.

Online Feedback Tool Summary

Eighty-two responses were recorded using the online feedback tool. Comment responses to specific questions varied from 77 to 40. The online feedback with specific comments and suggestions follows this report. In summary:

- Responses were across the whole spectrum ranging from “these are great, I can’t wait to teach these,” to “why do we have to change, the old are just fine.”
- Most response were in favor of the new standards.
- Some concern was expressed on the move from specific skills and curricular topics to thinking process in art making and presentation.
- Many suggested a format that shows the sequence of standards from grade to grade in the elementary grades.
- Suggestions were made for clarification of specific standards.
- A few comments seemed to represent a negative view of state standards in general.

Public Hearings Summary

There were approximately 25 people who attended the five public hearings. The meetings all started with reviewing the process for revising the Fine Arts Standards, then showing the audience where the proposed revisions are located on the USOE website, along with encouraging everyone to submit feedback using the online survey. The remaining time was given to participants to share comments regarding standards, the process, or whatever they would like. Comments were generally taken in the categories of format, philosophy, and content of the standards. Overall, the feedback from the public meetings was very positive. The most specific feedback came from the meeting in Springville where two educators had taken the time to go through each standard in their art form and make suggestions for clarification and grade appropriateness. Participants in the public meetings expressed their thanks for the opportunity to meet and have their voices heard.

Next Steps

Pending board approval, the Fine Arts writing team (made up of teachers, district specialists, and higher education representatives from Utah universities) will meet to make revisions to the standards. It is anticipated that the revisions will provide clarification to the standards. The finalized standards will then be brought to the Board requesting final approval. Revisions we be available to the public through the USOE website.

Utah Core State Standards in Fine Arts Revision Implementation Plan

General:

Fine Arts are not part of the state testing program so there are no assessment costs. The draft standards raise the bar for critical thinking and creativity which can be supported by current instructional materials and through professional development. The basic knowledge and skills in the standards have not changed enough to have a substantial impact.

Communication Plan:

1. District Arts Coordinators (DAC)
 - a. 2015-16 - Proposed revisions discussed in semi-annual state meetings.
 - b. Approved standards will be communicated to DACs (including Charter School Directors) via e-mail lists as soon as they are approved and an additional roll-out meeting will be scheduled.
 - c. 2016-17 - Continued discussions at each DAC meeting during the coming school year.
2. Curriculum Directors:
 - a. Present revised standards at the April Curriculum Directors Meeting.
 - b. Continue with standards spotlights at subsequent meetings.
3. Higher Education Faculty:
 - a. Approved standards will be communicated via e-mail lists as soon as they are approved.
 - b. Higher education representatives will be invited to the roll-out meeting.
4. Principals and Teachers:
 - a. A series of webinars will be held beginning on April 20 to present the newly revised standards.
 - b. Standards documents will be posted on the USOE website with implementation helps for teachers.

Professional Learning:

1. Professional Learning Series courses will be developed based on the revised standards beginning with the summer semester, 2016.
2. Courses submitted for USOE credit in Fine Arts will be screened for implementation of the revised standards.
3. The Fine Arts endorsement courses will be reviewed to ensure they are compliant with the revised standards.
4. Presentations at all applicable conferences of state-level professional organizations (UMEA, UAEA, UDEO, UACTT, UEA, etc.)

Costs:

1. Communication – no cost
2. Professional Learning – no additional cost. PLS courses in Fine Arts for the 2015-16 school year are budgeted at \$106,000 for course design and facilitation.

