

Public Comments  
Fine Art Standards

**Fine Arts Exhibit 1**

**Date Submitted: August 14, 2014**

**Kim Evander, Educator (teacher, administrator, curriculum director, SPED director, ect)**

I would like it organized so music levels were all together, visual arts were all together, etc. For teachers that teach multiple levels, it would be much more convenient. It was very confusing trying to jump around the pdf...

**Fine Arts Exhibit 2**

**Date Submitted: September 3, 2014**

**No Name Submitted, Parent**

Looks good, keep up the good work.

**Fine Arts Exhibit 3**

**Date Submitted: September 4, 2014**

**Dawn Hilgenkamp, Parent**

Pre-Kindergarten kids should not be learning about body parts and body types in school at such a young age. This is something that parents will teach at this age. At this age this is not part of Fine Art. It is not age appropriate. I am not happy with these standards and I do not want them in our schools.

**Fine Arts Exhibit 4**

**Date Submitted: September 10, 2014**

**Patricia Boyd, Representing an Organization or Agency**

Proposed Fine Arts Standards The presentation of the proposed revisions in South Dakota's K-12 Fine Arts Standards is an articulated response to the need for better access to the arts as learning skills, for all teachers at all grade levels. Taken together, designed by grade level to parallel progression through all subjects, they produce a tremendous resource for education in South Dakota. These practices are by no means restricted to visual or performing arts classes, but are used by teachers in all subjects, every day. Learning research and resulting data continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of intentional application of the arts in teaching, across curriculum. These revisions are designed and written to strengthen the foundational aspects of arts instruction K-12. They are also intended to serve as a resource to help teachers design courses of study using grade-level appropriate arts principles and practices to enhance development of observation, solutions, presentation, response and connections. The proposed revisions to fine arts standards are in line with South Dakota's overall goal of preparing students proficient and ready for career and college. We believe they merit adoption. Thank you for your consideration, Patricia Boyd Executive Director South Dakotans for the Arts

Public Comments  
Fine Art Standards

**Fine Arts Exhibit 5**

**Date Submitted: September 11, 2014**

**Rebecca Cruse, Representing an Organization or Agency**

Dear South Dakota State Board of Education:

I would like to urge your approval of the proposed fine arts standards on behalf of the South Dakota Arts Council. As the state arts agency, we are pleased with the concepts and specificity included in the revised standards. We are also impressed with the expertise of the diverse group of professionals involved in the revision process.

As the director of arts education for the SDAC, I had the opportunity to observe and discuss the revision process with the teachers who worked on this over the summer. Their focus and commitment will result in increased functionality, clarity, and collaboration in South Dakota classrooms.

The revisions will benefit teachers and students. Clearly identifying the artistic processes of creating, performing, responding, and connecting within each arts discipline, makes the fine arts standards far more accessible than they are currently. Furthermore, the breakdown of each process with the anchor standards and the specific outcomes expected at each grade level makes for attainable goals in all classrooms, for all teachers. The benefits to arts specialists are obvious, but I believe teachers in all content areas will find these revisions beneficial.

Teaching artists will also be able to use these standards in our Artists in Schools & Communities program. Their residencies will be able to clearly connect to classroom goals.

The SDAC has a long history of support and development of standards-based arts education. Depth of learning in the arts helps children become intelligent, successful adults.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cruse

Assistant Director South Dakota Arts Council South Dakota Department of Tourism

**Fine Arts Exhibit 6**

**Date Submitted: September 15, 2014**

**Julie Berger, Educator (teacher, administrator, curriculum director, SPED director, ect)**

After reviewing the new "proposed" music standards for South Dakota, I cannot even fathom how to use them. The new standards, based off of the new NAFME music standards, have no actual "standards" written in them. There is no place for building foundations of musical elements. Where does, "Learn a Concert Bb Scale" fall under in the new standards? I can use a standard to tell me how the Bb Concert scale makes me "feel", but nowhere to actually "learn" the scale. The

## Public Comments Fine Art Standards

original 5 state standards actually had musical concepts in them: rhythm, notes, scales, musical terminology, etc. Please do not adopt these new standards, as they do not teach anything about musical fundamentals, the building blocks that need to be accomplished before all the new "fluffy" standards can be incorporated.

### Fine Arts Exhibit 7

**Date Submitted: September 29, 2014**  
**Larry Petersen, Representing Self**

First, my comments below are not meant to diminish the efforts and thoughtful attention that the SD committee put forth in presenting this document. I find they align very well with the national standards, but is those national standards that I am disappointed in, and thus the proposed state standards are frustrating. I find it strange that our "standards" have become so vague and experience based, rather than skills based. I found the old standards frustrating because they were so lofty and hard to attain. I find these new standards frustrating because they do not aspire to make skilled musicians as much as they aspire to make music appreciators. I see the value in allowing the music student to become involved in how and why we do what we do as music educators, but how does that develop the musician? Connecting to audiences, explaining why we choose the repertoire we choose, refining rehearsal strategies - these make me question just who these standards are written for. The standards should be guidelines for student progress, not a means to make it easier for me to write my SLO. These new national standards are a continuation of the dumbing down of expectations for our youth. I believe that we in South Dakota should not settle for such vague and undemanding guidelines. While the former national standards set almost unrealistic goals for many of us in South Dakota, I appreciated their lofty aspirations. I believe many of us feel in the age of assessment, we need to word our standards in a manner that will allow us to look like the quality teachers we already are. Unfortunately, this lack of specificity also allows us a loophole when it comes to the skills-based expectations of our students. We can meet almost every standard in this document with a very sub-par ensemble. I don't believe that should be the case. I am hoping we can find some middle ground here and return to more specific guidelines that challenge not only the teacher, but also the student.