



## **Request to Revise the Nevada Fine Arts Standards**

Nevada's current Fine Arts standards have been in place since March of 2000. Since that time, standards in core content areas (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Health, Physical Education and Science) have undergone precedent setting changes. These content areas have shifted their focus from simply outlining a list of concepts/skills students should know and be able to do toward a focus on measurable, attainable learning goals based on student outcome objectives that encompass application in real world settings with an eye toward college and career readiness.

Standards represent the key concepts and processes of study in a content area. Over time, standards are revisited to determine alignment of their conceptual framework relative to current practice, curriculum, instruction and assessments in American schools. Standards are dynamic and need constant refinement to reflect the ever-changing aspects in the field.

The arts are essential in education for they provide students with the means to think, feel, and understand the world around them in ways unique and distinct from other academic disciplines. These skills have been recognized as essential to lifelong success both in and out of school by a variety of education and civic leaders, including the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Education Commission of the States, and The Conference Board. The National Fine Arts standards have undergone a national review to refine and develop these standards to reflect measurable and attainable learning objectives based on artistic goals and in support of more rigorous and relevant standards. As such, they create a sequential, standards-based approach to arts education with student outcome and college career readiness as the final indicator. We hope to embrace the idea of **Artistic Literacy** – the ability of students to create art, perform and present art, respond or critique art, and connect art to their lives and the world around them.

In keeping with the State's plan for providing students with the standards that reflect the rigor, relevance, and best practices in education, the Office of Standards and Instructional Support requests of the Council to Establish Academic Standards to authorize the Nevada Department of Education to commence meetings to study the possible revision of the Nevada Fine Arts standards. These meetings in collaboration with a wide range of Nevada stakeholders will review the national trends and various current state editions of their Fine Arts standards and possibly revise Nevada's Fine Arts Standards to reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century college and career readiness indicators.