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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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January 24, 2017

(X) Action Required  
Due Date: February 5, 2017  
(X) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 005-17 LEARNING AND TEACHING

**TO:** Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School Building Principals  
School Public Relations Professionals

**FROM:** Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Public Comment for The Washington State Arts K–12 Learning Standards

**CONTACTS:** Anne Banks, Program Supervisor, The Arts  
360-725-4966, [anne.banks@k12.wa.us](mailto:anne.banks@k12.wa.us)

### **Purpose/ Background**

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform teachers, administrators, students, and other stakeholders of the opportunity to provide feedback on the drafts of the Washington State Arts K–12 Learning Standards for Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

Under current Washington law ([RCW 28A.655.070](#)), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has the responsibility to develop and maintain Washington's academic learning standards consistent with the goals outlined in the Basic Education Act, [RCW 28A.150.210](#). This includes periodic review and possible revision of the standards.

Prior to adopting state learning standards in any subject area, OSPI's process includes several key components that include reviewing and vetting the draft standards with key statewide stakeholder groups, conducting comparisons of previous state learning standards with the revised standards, conducting a bias and sensitivity process to gather recommendations for implementing the standards in a culturally sensitive and bias-free manner, and providing an opportunity for the public to provide input on the proposed drafts. These steps are conducted prior to adoption to allow OSPI and other statewide partners involved with developing transition and implementation plans and resources to gather specific recommendations on critical issues related to implementing the new standards.

Beginning in August of 2014, OSPI engaged a cadre of arts educators representing dance, music, theatre, and visual arts to review and compare our Washington State Arts K–12 Learning Standards

with the new [National Core Arts Standards](#) (NCAS) that had been recently released. After this intensive review, the cadre recommended that the NCAS be adopted as the Washington State Arts K–12 Learning Standards and that in addition to dance, music, theatre, and visual art, that media arts be added as a discipline. Lastly, the cadre recommended that additional ideas and examples be added to provide more specificity. The resulting standards for dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts now include “Suggestions for Students” and “Examples”.

### **Why Provide Feedback?**

The Arts K–12 Learning Standards are foundational to the delivery of effective and equitable instruction. Arts education is vital to the health and academic success of students throughout the state. The feedback from this survey will help us strengthen the content and supporting resources related to the Arts K–12 Learning Standards.

No individual responses from the survey will be reported. The data gathered will be used to revise, inform, or provide additional clarification. This effort is designed to better meet the instructional needs of teachers and the learning needs of students.

### **Survey Availability**

The public comment survey opened on January 13 and will be available through February 5. OSPI invites any interested parties to provide feedback at: [The Arts Public Comment Survey](#).

### **Information and Assistance**

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Anne Banks, Program Supervisor for the Arts at 360-725-4966 or email [anne.banks@k12.wa.us](mailto:anne.banks@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on OSPI’s website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx>.

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CR: mr

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