



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

### ***Superintendent Horne supports a comprehensive curriculum***

Superintendent Horne knows that a comprehensive curriculum, **including the arts**, benefits all students, and supports the comprehensive curriculum envisioned by the State Board of Education.

- A school curriculum should include all of the content areas covered by **Arizona’s Academic K-12 Standards, including the arts**. “All students will achieve the essentials level in the four arts disciplines (**music, visual arts, theatre and dance**) and attain the proficiency level in at least one art form on or before graduation.”  
- Arts Standards Rationale
- As outlined in Arizona’s state statutes, **students in grades K-8 at a minimum “shall demonstrate competency** as defined by the State Board-adopted Essential Skills...in the following required subject areas...**Music, Visual Arts .” High School students must receive “one credit of fine arts (performing or visual) or vocational education”** in order to graduate from high school.  
- R7-2-301; R7-2-302
- The new federal authorization for schools entitled *No Child Left Behind* **lists the arts as part of the core curriculum**.  
- Title IX, Part A, Section 9101 (1)(D)(11), Definitions

***“Arts are an essential part of every student’s education. Studies show that students who study the arts score higher on academic tests than students not exposed to the arts. The Department of Education needs to ensure that schools have not neglected the arts in order to emphasize the tested subject areas of reading, writing and math.”***

**- Tom Horne  
Superintendent of Public**

How can you use this information?

1. **Educate your school leaders.** Many school board members, administrators, parents, even arts teachers are not aware of the requirements to include arts in the core curriculum.
2. **Present information to your school leaders about the power of arts education.** Arts learning not only promotes creativity and the development of workplace skills, it also promotes learning in other subject areas. Visit the Arizona Department of Education’s web-site for more information.
3. **Form an Arts in Education Council** and harness the advocacy power of your parent supporters. For more information on beginning a council for your school, join the **Arizona Alliance for Arts Education** by contacting Jacky Alling at [jdjra@aol.com](mailto:jdjra@aol.com) or 602/264-0299.
4. **Invite the Arizona Department of Education** to present to your school leaders on the importance of arts education. Contact Lynn Tuttle at [ltuttle@ade.az.gov](mailto:ltuttle@ade.az.gov) or 602/364-1534.
5. Receive arts education information including funding opportunities via the **Arizona Commission on the Arts**. Visit the Commission’s web-site at [www.arizonaarts.org/arts\\_education](http://www.arizonaarts.org/arts_education) and sign up for the arts in education on-line newsletter.

***Useful Links:***

**Arts Standards:**

<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/arts/arts-rationale.asp>

**State Education Law:**

[http://www.sosaz.com/public\\_services/title\\_07/7-02.htm#ARTICLE%203.%20CURRICULUM%20REQUIREMENTS%20AND%20SPECIAL%20PROGRAMS](http://www.sosaz.com/public_services/title_07/7-02.htm#ARTICLE%203.%20CURRICULUM%20REQUIREMENTS%20AND%20SPECIAL%20PROGRAMS)

**Arizona Department of Education:**

[www.ade.az.gov/arts](http://www.ade.az.gov/arts)

**No Child Left Behind:**

[www.nochildleftbehind.gov](http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov)

**Arts Education Research:**

<http://www.aep-arts.org>