

Arts Education is Academic, Essential, Core, Basic and....a Requirement in WA State!

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The inspiration for this essay has been the paradigm shift from Arts Education as elective, extra-curricular, and private study to **Arts Education as academic, essential, core, basic, and much more, for all learners.**

The following "list" exemplifies the necessity of a quality Arts Education for all learners in Washington State. My hope is that you will be able to use it in your advocacy efforts to support the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) vision and goal for a comprehensive, sequential, and standards-based K-12 arts education in dance, music, theatre and visual arts in your schools and districts for all learners.

Arts Education in Washington State is.....

- a **core academic subject area** as defined by federal law in No Child Left Behind/Elementary and Secondary Education Act of January 2002, (NCLB/ESEA, 2002), Title V, Part D, subpart 15, (section 5551). *Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts were defined as "core arts" by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Terry Bergeson in 2002, in compliance with all states defining "the arts" in NCLB/ESEA;*
- **basic education** as defined by RCW 28A.150.210 (1993) as defined in the State Learning Goals;
- an **essential academic learning requirement (EALR)** as defined by HB 1209, (1993) when Washington State defined the State Learning Goals and subject areas to be taught to all learners;
- a **high school graduation requirement** for all students beginning with the freshman class of 2004 (graduating class of 2008)-WAC 180-51-061 - Minimum requirements for high school graduation - requiring all high school students to take one full year of study in The Arts at benchmark 3 and/or above, that is non-substitutable;
- an **area of study that celebrates all cultures, student diversity and ethnicity**, specifically mandated in SHB 1495 (2005) - celebrating state tribal history and culture through The Arts;
- a subject area to be taught by **highly qualified instructors, accessible to all students/learners, and assessed in 2008-2009 and beyond**, with results reported to the state (OSPI) in compliance with HB 2195, 2004;
- **mission driven** - *"The Arts - communicating and integrating life, literacy and learning through experience for all learners."* (fall 2001);
- **motto driven** - *"The Arts- Creating, Performing, and Responding."*
- an **emotional experience** that has the potential to have a *"positive and transforming effect/affect"* for students;
- the **universal language** for all students/learners;
- an **emotional experience** that impacts our entire being;
- **all five senses** - *sight, touch, smell, hearing, and taste;*
- **all four learning styles** of all learners - *aural, visual, kinesthetic, and tactile;*
- a **celebration of all eight multiple intelligences of Howard Gardner's research** - *visual and spatial; math and logic; interpersonal; intrapersonal; musical; word/reading; body/kinesthetic; and naturalistic-* through the creating, performing, and responding processes that are

- essential to the *“artistic process”* in life and learning;
- **research-based** - Students who study in the arts perform better on the Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) in the verbal and mathematical portions, than students who do not study in the arts. (*Sources: The College Board, Profile for College-Bound Seniors National Report for 2000, 2001, and 2002*);
- **a subject area of essential study for all learners, a subject that naturally integrates with itself, and a subject that naturally integrates with all subject areas** - Arts for *“arts sake”*, integrated arts (*dance, music, theatre, and visual arts*), and arts in all subject content areas of study;
- **a definition of civilization;**
- **an exciting and inspiring way of instilling** a *“love of learning”*, an *appreciation for life*, and *creative “out of the box” learners*; and
- **essential to a “well rounded” education for the “whole child” because we are born to create, perform, and respond by instinct!**

Arts Education is Academic, Essential, Core, Basic, a Requirement and much more! Here’s to “Arts Education for All - for Life”!!

The Arts Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) in Washington State are:

1. *The student understands and applies arts knowledge and skills;*
2. *The student demonstrates thinking skills using artistic processes;*
3. *The student communicates through the arts;*
4. *The student makes connections within and across the arts, to other disciplines, life, cultures and work.*

For more information about Arts Education in Washington State, visit the OSPI Arts Education WebPages at: www.k12.wa.us/curriculumInstruct/arts for 24/7 access to resources, support, research, and professional development information to make arts education the best it can be in your schools, districts and regions.

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