

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION**

The Governing Board recognizes that by studying visual and performing arts, students learn to develop initiative, discipline, perceptual abilities, and critical and creative thinking skills that extend to all areas of life. The Board believes that a comprehensive arts education program should be an integral part of the basic education offered to all students in all grades. The Board encourages all teachers to use the arts to facilitate learning in the subjects they teach.

In so far as available, students will have the opportunity to continually improve artistic skills, create and/or perform original works, acquire an appreciation of arts from many eras and cultures, and develop an intellectual basis for making aesthetic judgments.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee will encourage the integration of community arts resources into the school program. In so far as possible, students will have opportunities to attend musical and theatrical performances, observe the work of accomplished artists, and work directly with visiting artists.

The Board supports a collaboration with community arts agencies through the Local Arts Education Partnership Program and is committed to providing the necessary time, staff, and financial resources in order to fulfill the district's part in this school-community arts agency partnership.

The Board acknowledges the importance of ongoing professional development for teachers in arts education. The Superintendent or designee will ensure that certificated staff have opportunities to become knowledgeable about curriculum developments in the arts and strategies for delivering a comprehensive arts program to students.

