

# SB 725 (Hancock): Visual and Performing Arts Standards

## Update and Review

As Amended June 2, 2015

### ISSUE

It has been fourteen years (2001) since California last adopted content standards for Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA). Students should not be asked to wait any longer for an updated VAPA curriculum. SB 725 will review and update California VAPA standards to include connections to both the Common Core State Standards and the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary for the careers of the future.

### BACKGROUND

In 2000, SB 1390 (Murray) was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis to update and review the Visual and Performing Arts Standards. The State Board adopted standards in 2001. No mechanism exists in current law to require the next revision. Passage of SB 725 is necessary for any future improvements or modifications to California's Visual and Performing Arts standards.

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) has developed performance based VAPA standards more closely aligned to the core curriculum and integrated into 21st century career skills. SB 725 calls for NCCAS to serve as a basis of deliberation for California's standards similar to the way the Next Generation Science Standards served as a basis for California's Science standards.

### NEED FOR THE BILL

Extensive research demonstrates the connection between visual and performing arts education and student engagement. Arts education contributes to higher test scores and reduces truancy and dropout rates.

The Otis Report cites that 10% of California's jobs are in the creative industry and 8% of the state's Gross National Product is related to the arts. It is in the state's best economic interest to provide students the most current and relevant instruction in the Visual and Performing Arts.

Updating standards is the first step in modifying classroom curriculum. Once new standards are adopted, curriculum frameworks can be rewritten and classroom materials developed and aligned.

The Education Code mandates Visual and Performing Arts as part of K-6 curriculum and VAPA must be offered to students in Grades 7-12. The Local Control Accountability Plan requires that districts specify how they

are providing all students with curriculum, including VAPA.

### WHAT THIS BILL WILL DO

SB 725 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE), to convene a panel of experts to recommend new Visual and Performing Arts standards to the State Board. A minimum of two public meetings will be held by the Superintendent so that public input can be provided. Recommended VAPA standards shall be submitted to the SBE from the Superintendent on or before January 30, 2017. The SBE will need to adopt, reject, or modify the proposed standards by June 30, 2017. If the standards are modified by the board, written reasons for the modifications shall be provided in a public meeting. SBE will then adopt its modifications no sooner than the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the board. Amendments taken in Senate Appropriations make implementation of this bill contingent upon the Board adopting a schedule for the regular update of academic content standards in all subjects.

### SPONSORS

California Music Educators Association  
California Art Education Association  
California Dance Education Association  
California Educational Theatre Association  
Drama Teachers Association of Southern California

### SUPPORT

American String Teachers Association – California Chapter  
Arts Orange County  
Association of California School Administrators  
California Alliance for Arts Education  
California Arts Advocates  
California Federation of Teachers  
California Teachers Association  
Californians for the Arts  
Common Sense Kids Action  
Music Association of California Community Colleges  
National Association for Music Merchants  
Northern California Band and Choir Directors Association  
Quincy Jones  
Southern California Vocal Association  
Theatre Bay Area

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
Over 100 individual letters of support

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