

Idaho Music Standards White Paper

The Problem: Current Music Standards are Inadequate for 21st Century Music Classrooms

It is well-known that learning music concepts enhances learning in all subject areas, yet the current Idaho Standards for music, which were adopted in 2008, are primarily skill-based standards. The new Idaho Music Standards emphasize concepts, allowing districts to write skill-based curricula guided by the principles of the Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions under each major category. In addition, the current standards do not differentiate between the many different strands of music. The new proposed standards have 5 strands, with specialized standards for each strand.

New Music Standards Organization

In the past four years, SEADAE (State Education Agencies Directors of Arts Education) have organized a new framework for teaching and learning in the arts. The new standards revolve around four artistic processes: Creating, Performing/Producing/ Presenting, Responding, and Connecting. The strand of Performing has been enlarged to include Producing and Presenting, which are expanded aspects of performing. The new strand of Connecting brings the classroom study of music into a larger context of its place in the arts and in the community of overall learning. This overall organization provides music educators with a framework of “Enduring Understandings” and “Essential Questions.” Using the new standards, Idaho teachers and school districts may create effective curriculum and lessons, providing a complete and thorough music education.

Committee recommendations:

Music Strand:

- Add parenthetical explanation to the title – (e.g. General Music, Music Appreciation)
- Extend the standards through HS Advanced to allow for high school classes such as music history or music appreciation

Music-Traditional and Emerging Ensemble Strands:

- Add parenthetical explanation to the title – (i.e. Performing Ensembles)
- Copy music strand standard MU:Pr6.1.8.e to also be MU:Pr6.1.E.5c for the purpose of including performing etiquette in performing classes
- Remove HS from all proficiency levels for the purpose of differentiation of instruction at both MS and HS. Listing would read: Novice, Intermediate, Proficient, Accomplished, Advanced

Music-Harmonizing Instruments Strand

- Add parenthetical explanation to the title (e.g.: guitar, keyboard) Remove HS from proficiency levels

Music-Composition and Theory Strand

- Re-title to Music-Composition and/or Theory Strand

Request Adoption:

Because we believe the new standards better serve Idaho students and will allow Idaho teachers to build curriculum more appropriate to the classroom needs of our teachers and learners, the music committee requests adoption of the 2015 music standards. The standards will be presented both in chart format, to allow teachers to view standards across K-12 and outline format, which will allow teachers to copy and paste the standards into daily lesson plans.

Music Committee Members:

Chair: Barbara Oldenburg, West Ada School District: General Music Instructor
Aimee Atkinson, Renaissance High School: Choral Music Director
Matt Barkley, Post Falls High School: Band Director
Julie Burke, Lewiston High School: Choral Music Director
Quentin DeWitt, Rocky Mountain High School: Band Director
Tyler Eriksen, Eagle High School: Band Director
Shirley Van Paepghem, North Star Charter School: General Music Instructor
Dr. Greg Springer, Boise State University: Music Education Professor