

Idaho Theatre Arts Standards White Paper

Background

As Theatre Arts Educators, we strive to provide an enriched curriculum that fosters vibrant imaginative skills, empowered personal expression, and an appreciation and support of cultural diversity. A theatre arts curriculum provides an environment where student learning and experience are fused together to create innovative and influential works. A solid foundation of theatre standards will provide Idaho students with a highly sought after set of interpersonal skills that transcend the classroom.

We, the Executive Committee on Humanities Theatre Standards Revision, make recommendation for the adoption of the new Theatre arts Standards recently developed by the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education . As the Theatre Arts Association states, “Arts standards create a pathway to quality arts learning and teaching; prepare students for college and career; and affirm the arts as a core academic subject.”

The adoption of the new Theatre Arts Standards supports:

- Clarity through concise, flexible standards for educators
- The opportunity to deepen the understandings of each content area
- A framework for individual teacher creativity and flexibility
- The students’ learning in the four artistic processes of Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting
- Intentional focus on relating personal learning and experience to artistic expression and other disciplines
- Contemporary thought, practices, and technologies
- All arts disciplines, fostering a greater degree of cross collaboration
- Literacy that embraces artistic expression through reading, writing and analysis of contemporary and historical texts

Grade-by-grade performance standards from kindergarten to the three high school levels of achievement articulate student achievement in theatre and translate the standards into measurable goals.

We submit that with the adoption of these standards, Idaho educators will have a comprehensive document to advance their theatre arts objectives, thereby preparing their students to be critical thinkers and contributing citizens.

Theatre committee Members:

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