

Idaho Visual Arts Standards White Paper

Introduction

We, the Visual Arts Standards Revision Executive Committee, upon review of the new Visual Arts Standards as presented by the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) enthusiastically recommend the adoption of these standards for the State of Idaho. We recognize the extensive research, time and collaboration that went into developing these standards. We found that these standards are inclusive of at-risk and culturally diverse students reflected in the student population in Idaho. These standards provide the guidelines for assisting Idaho students to move sequentially from public education towards college and career readiness.

The new Visual Arts Standards provide a broad, flexible and sequential framework that meets the needs of educators in developing curriculum at a local level. The standards will guide teachers in instructing students in problem solving, collaboration, artistic practice, visual literacy, reflection, and experimentation, all contributing to educated citizens in our increasingly creative global economy.

Visual Arts Standards

In comparing the current Idaho Humanities Standards for Visual Arts, the new standards more clearly reflect our values in Visual Arts education and assist in the creation of curriculum.

The new Visual Arts Standards are designed:

- To clarify through clear, concise, flexible standards for educators
- To promote critical thinking, creative thinking, and problem solving skills
- To build upon essential questions and enduring understandings that connect all art forms through eleven anchor standards
- To encourage Individual investigation as well as collaborative practice
- To support 21st Century skills, practice, and technologies
- To provide objective learning and assessment opportunities with accountability for instruction and achievement
- To help students develop awareness and understand the lives of people of different times and cultures
- To relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding

What are Visual Arts?

The visual arts include the traditional fine arts, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics and the design arts. Visual art is defined by self-expression through creative art making. Additionally, the visual arts provide students with diverse backgrounds and needs an opportunity for discovery, self-expression, and communication. The Idaho visual arts standards committee members understand the importance of having rigorous standards in order to create a strong curriculum. We know that the Idaho Visual Arts Standards will encompass this shared belief.

Visual Arts Committee members:

Chair: Camille Johnson, Twin Falls High School: Art Instructor

Michele Emery, Frank Church Alternative High School, Boise: Art Instructor

Peggy Fiske, Lapwai School District: Art Instructor

Lola Johnson, Lowell Scott Middle School, West Ada School District: Art Instructor

Dr. Kathleen Keys, Boise State University: Professor of Art Education

Sally Machlis, University of Idaho: Chair, Department of Art and Design

Ruth Piispanen, Idaho Commission on the Arts: Director of Arts Education