

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE
2012-2015 ARTS EDUCATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board believes that every student deserves to receive a comprehensive and sequential study of every art form, including visual art, music, dance, and drama from pre-K through 12th grade;

WHEREAS, the arts are recognized as a vital element of a 21st century education, with research showing that exposure to and education in the arts significantly decreases dropout rates, improves the likelihood of entering college, increases civic engagement, and ultimately promotes financial success throughout a person's lifetime;

WHEREAS, national research indicates that a substantial arts education stimulates innovation, communication, creativity, and critical thinking skills;

WHEREAS, the Board values the critical role that certified arts teachers play as the anchors for robust arts programs and creating strong arts partnerships in schools;

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) through a rigorous community engagement process has named Arts Education as the cornerstone of its Chicago Cultural Plan 2012;

WHEREAS, the District's Department of Arts Education has developed a comprehensive, multi-year Arts Education Plan that provides key goals, priorities, and recommendations which will guide the expansion of arts education at all grade levels in the Chicago Public Schools;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the critical role that all stakeholders played in crafting the District's first-ever Arts Education Plan and wishes to thank teachers, students, principals, parents, arts partners, and the community at large for their commitment to Arts Education;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the arts (visual art, music, dance, and drama) as a core content area; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the 2012-2015 Arts Education Plan, the Board intends to provide students with greater flexibility to enroll in a variety of Fine Arts courses to satisfy their high school graduation requirement in Fine Arts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. The 2012-2015 Arts Education Plan is hereby approved and adopted along with the following six key goals which will drive District arts initiatives:

1. Goal 1-District Arts Policy: Create district-level policies that support the arts in every child's PreK-12 education experience and creating conditions throughout the district that utilize the arts to support student success.
2. Goal 2-Arts Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Ensure that district arts curriculum, instruction, and assessment is consistent, supports arts learning pathways from PreK-12 and utilizes both direct arts instruction and arts integration strategies.
3. Goal 3-Capacity Building: Provide relevant professional development for all stakeholders to build their capacity for improving student learning in and through the arts; developing strategies to address the district's challenges to arts education.
4. Goal 4-Partnership: Facilitate and support strategic partnerships and collaborations in the arts, built upon quality indicators, to enhance student learning at all levels and celebrate and honor student voice, culture, and traditions.

5. Goal 5-Data-Driven Decisions: Build sustainable system infrastructure to track, analyze, and disseminate standardized data on arts instruction and programming.
6. Goal 6-Across All Priorities-Funding: Ensure adequate and sustainable Arts Education funding is equitably distributed across the district and additional funds are available to support arts innovation and school action plans.

B. High school students who earn 2 credits from courses in any two of the four Fine Arts content areas (visual arts, music, dance, and drama/theatre) shall be deemed to satisfy the Fine Arts credit requirements specified in the Board's Policy on the Minimum High School Graduation Requirements (06-0628-PO2). To implement this expanded definition of the Fine Arts content areas, Section I.F. of the Board's Policy on the Minimum High School Graduation Requirements (06-0628-PO2) is hereby amended as follows:

"F. Fine Arts (2.0 credits. A combination of two of the following four content areas. No more than 1.0 credit in one content area may be used towards satisfaction of the Fine Arts requirement):

1. Visual Art or Drafting
2. Music
3. Theatre/Drama
4. Dance"