

## Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### **How did the initiative begin for writing Fine and Performing Arts Standards?**

The Common Core movement was initiated by the National Governors' Conference. Standards in mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies were developed. These standards have been adopted by the majority of the states.

In October of 2011, the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) begin soliciting volunteers to write standards for the arts, including visual arts, music, theatre, dance, and media arts. This work continues.

At their October 2012 meeting, the Nebraska Board of Education gave support for standards to be adopted for the fine arts. Fine arts are essential in the academic development of Nebraska students. With a generous grant from the Nebraska Arts Council, NDE will begin the work of writing Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards for the students of our state.

#### **Who will be writing the standards, and how can I participate?**

All Nebraska teachers, PK-16, of the fine and performing arts are eligible and qualified to apply to write the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards beginning spring of 2013. Input is needed from teachers and retired teachers for visual arts, music, dance, theatre, and media arts. Teachers who are interested must complete and submit the entire application and secure the permission of their administration to participate. Teachers from all areas in Nebraska and all sizes of schools are encouraged to apply to be writers and leaders in this very important process. There will also be an ad hoc advisory committee composed of arts professionals in the above disciplines.

#### **By what criteria will writing team applicants be evaluated?**

In order to assure equity among the team members, NDE will be considering the following qualifications. (These items are not listed in priority ranking.)

- State School Board District
- Geographic area
- Ethnicity
- Certification
- Endorsement(s)
- Experience
- Years of Teaching
- Professional Membership(s)
- Professional Leadership
- Computer/Technology Knowledge
- Educational Approach Theories
- Resume
- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- Grade Level Experience

#### **What disciplines are covered by the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards?**

Five disciplines are included: dance, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts

#### **Media arts is a new category. How is it defined?**

The National Endowment for the Arts defines media arts as "film, television, radio, audio, video, the Internet, interactive and mobile technologies, art created using digital technology, transmedia storytelling, video games, and content delivered via satellite."

The National Coalition for Common Core Arts Standards position statement states, "media arts can be viewed as a stand-alone art form with unique characteristics and, like other art forms, media arts 1) exists as a means of creative expression, 2) involves composition and creation, and 3) is characterized by its own history and cultural development."

### **What is the timeline for the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards development and implementation?**

The following timeline will be followed in the development and implementation of the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts:

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** - Leaders in the fine and performing arts education fields will meet at the NDE to learn about the application process for the writing teams and writing leaders. This information will then be distributed to the memberships of the organizations these leaders represent.

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** - The application will appear on the NDE website. Applicants will be allowed to begin the process at this time.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** - All completed applications are due to the NDE on this date.

**March** - All notified finalists for writing leaders and the writing teams will begin the interview process (either in-person, video, or phone) with the NDE.

**April** - All writing leaders and writing team members will be notified of their acceptance into the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards writing team. Notification of gratitude will also be sent on this day to applicants not selected as members of the team. These individuals will be placed in a pool of applicants to be used to replace members who are unable to complete their duties.

**May** - The writing of the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards begins.

**Spring 2014** - Advisers and consultants from arts organizations who represent areas other than the arts in education will be asked to preview the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards document to offer new ideas and possible changes. These ideas will be reviewed by the NDE, the writing leaders and writing team members. Needed changes to the document will be made at this time.

**July 2014** - The Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts document will be a completed document ready for the consideration of the Nebraska State Board of Education.

### **What are the time requirements and duties for a Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards Writing Team members?**

Writing team members are asked to bring their talents and time to the process of writing the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards. Members' expertise will be used to research, discuss, reflect upon, write, review, and edit the documents they create. The process will require 3 - 4 face-to-face team meetings and 75 - 140 hours of meeting time designated by the team leader and the team members. Honoraria for the writing teams and expenses such as lodging, meals, and substitute teacher pay will be paid.

It may also require extra personal time beyond aforementioned hours to write the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards document. Team members must be willing to contribute these hours in order to create a quality document.

### **How do the responsibilities of a team leader differ from the writing team members of the Nebraska Fine and Performing Arts Standards?**

Team leaders are expected to facilitate all aspects of the writing process in their individual discipline. They are to establish and organize team meetings. This will require leadership skills and writing skills and extra time beyond the time required of the writing team members. The final draft presented to the Nebraska Department of Education in the spring of 2014 will be the team leader's responsibility.

### **After submitting my application, what can I expect from the application process?**

You can expect to be contacted regarding your status for entering the interview rounds to be held during March 2013. For the interview process (either in-person or via phone/video), you may be required to bring/send samples of curriculum and/or standard models you have created. After the conclusion of interviews, you will be notified regarding your status, and the chosen writing teams and writing leaders will be announced at the beginning of April.